Characterisation and comparison of case study findings – Batch 1 cases

Deliverable 4.2

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transformative social innovation theory

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This report gives an overview and a comparative analysis of the findings from the 12 first case study reports in TRANSIT about aspects of transformative social innovation (TSI). Each of the 12 reports, which the report is based on, includes an analysis of a transnational social innovation network and at least two local social innovation initiatives.

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This report is based on the case research done by the research teams, who conducted the 12 case studies, which are the Batch 1 case studies in the TRANSIT project. Without this case research and the case reports there from, it would not have been possible to make the characterisation and comparison of the findings and the methodological experiences in this report. The list of the research teams and the titles of the case reports can be found in Annex 1 of this report. A first draft of the report was reviewed by UFRJ. A final draft of the report was reviewed and commented by the case researchers, and further observations from the case reports were added.

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1 Introduction

The TRANSIT project applies an embedded case study approach is used to ground and develop a middle-range theory on transformative social innovation (TSI). This report – Deliverable 4.2 (D4.2) - gives an overview and a comparative analysis of the findings from the 12 first case study reports in TRANSIT about transformative aspects of social innovation. Each of the 12 reports includes an analysis of a transnational social innovation network and at least two local social innovation initiatives.
The aim of the case studies is to contribute to developing knowledge about the dynamics of social innovation as described in the overall TRANSIT research question:

How does social innovation interact with other forms of (transformative) change, and how are actors (dis)empowered therein?

This report builds upon the theoretical approach in TRANSIT as described in Deliverable 3.1 (Haxeltine et al, 2014) and upon the methodological guidelines in Deliverable 4.1(Jørgensen et al, 2014). These guidelines describe and operationalise the four main research questions which the case studies are building upon:

1. **What is the network/initiative under study?**

2. **How does the network/initiative engage with and relate to (different forms of) 'innovation' and 'change'?** (How) has that changed?

3. **How were/are actors involved in the network/ initiative (dis)empowered regarding innovation and change?** (How) has that changed?

4. **Which other questions/ issues/ themes emerged as relevant in the in-depth case-study of the network/initiative, for understanding the dynamics of transformative social innovation?**

Table 1.1 gives an overview of the Batch1 cases and the institutions which have been coordinating each case study and carried out the analyses of each of the local initiatives. Annex 1 gives a more detailed description of each of the networks, provides (if possible) the websites for each of the networks and/or local initiatives as well as the references to the case reports.

Table 1.1 Overview of the Batch1 cases and the institutions which have coordinated each case study and carried out the analyses of each of the local initiatives

	Transnational Networks under study in TRANSIT project	Case study coordinator	Local Case 1	Local Case 2
1	**The Impact Hub:** Global network of social entrepreneurs	DRIFT	São Paulo Brazil - UFRJ	Rotterdam & Amsterdam NL - DRIFT
2	**Ashoka:** Network for financial support to social entrepreneurs	ESSRG	Ashoka Hungary - ESSRG	Ashoka Germany - UM
3	**Time Banks:** Networks facilitating reciprocal service exchange	UM	Timebanking UK Fair Shares UK - UM	Health & Family Ser-Hacer Spain - UDC
4	**Credit Unions:** Different types of credit cooperatives	UDC	Norwich Credit Union UK – UEA	FIARE Spain - UDC
5	**RIPESS:** Network for the promotion of social solidarity economy	ULB	CRIES Romania - UDC	VOSEC Belgium - ULB
6	**FabLabs:** Digital fabrication workshops open to local communities	SPRU	Amersfoort Fab Lab (De War) NL - SPRU	Fab Lab Argentina Argentina - UNQ
7	**Hackerspaces:** User driven digital fabrication workshops	SPRU	Build Brighton UK - SPRU	Hacklab Barracas Argentina - UNQ
8	**Living Knowledge Network:** Network of science shops and other community-based research entities	AAU	Science Shop DTU Denmark - AAU	InterMEDIU Romania - AAU
9	**DESIS-network:** Network for design for social innovation and sustainability	UFRJ	POLIMI DESIS Italy - UFRJ	NAS Design Brazil - UFRJ
10	**Global Ecovillage Network:** Network of ecovillages and other intentional communities	BOKU	Tamera Portugal - DRIFT	Schloss Tempelhof Germany - BOKU
11	**Transition Network:** Grassroot communities working on 'local resilience'	UEA	Transition Totnes UK - UEA	Transition Wekerle Hungary - ESSRG
12	**INFORSE:** International network of sustainable energy NGOs	AAU	VE (Vedvarende energi) Denmark - AAU	APERé Belgium - ULB

The objectives of this report and its chapters are described underneath:

- Introduce the applied case study approach and methodology and its role in the middle-range theory development in TRANSIT (chapter 2)

- Describe the methodological approach in the comparison of the findings from the 12 case reports (chapter 3)

- Give an overview of the analysed cases and the main findings with respect to:
    - Development of transnational networking and local initiatives (chapter 4)_
    - Aspects of innovation and change (chapter 5)
    - Aspects of dis/empowerment and the roles herein of internal and external governance, social learning, resources and monitoring/evaluation (chapter 6)

- Give insight into the methodological experiences from the case research and contribute to methodological reflections for research on TSI (chapter 7)

- Characterize similarities and differences between social innovation in different social contexts and contribute to theoretical reflections for research on transformative aspects of social innovation (of both external and TRANSIT-internal relevance) (chapter 8)

2 Case studies and TSI theory development

As mentioned, TRANSIT aims at developing a middle-range theory on transformative social innovation (a TSI theory. This theoretical aim requires a solid research design. This chapter briefly describes the main methodological choices made. In this way it is specified how the comparison of 12 case studies helps to answer the central research question of TRANSIT.

In the following, six clusters of methodological choices are described. These pertain to the iterative set-up (2.1), the proto-theorization through sensitizing concepts (2.2), the embedded- case approach (2.3), the case demarcations (2.4), the reflective approach (2.5), and the comparative set-up (2.6).

2.1 Iterating towards middle-range theory on TSI processes

The central research question leaves open various methodological choices. The stated research aims contain several major choices however, which immediately translate into the research design. In the Description of Work, TSI is described as follows: *"The overall objective is to **iteratively co-produce** a **middle-range theory** of social innovation **processes** that constitutes a step-wise contribution to the science of social change and that is **also of practical use** in informing the development of institutional and policy frameworks for the governance – and **empowerment** – of social innovation (SI) and in directly supporting social entrepreneurs engaged in social innovation processes."* (TRANSIT 2013, 20). All the terms in bold indicate choices in research design:

Middle-range theory. TRANSIT research aims at developing a 'middle–range' TSI theory (Cf. Haxeltine et al. 2013). The term "middle-range theory" is an approach to theory construction that was brought forward by Robert K. Merton as a deliberate departure from Talcott Parsons' systems-based social theorizing Merton argued for a focus on measurable aspects of social reality that can be studied as separate social phenomena rather than attempting to explain the entire social world. Middle range theories are developed by applying theory building techniques to empirical research, which produce generic propositions about the social world, which afterwards can also be empirically tested. Like other theories middle-range theory should consolidate otherwise segregated hypotheses and empirical regularities (Bourdon 1991). The comprehensive term of 'TSI' could be seen as inviting to a systems-based approach to the entire social world, but TRANSIT does not pursue such path. Instead, the TSI theory building is empirically informed.

Process understanding for empowerment. The importance of empirically informed TSI theory is further underlined by the aim for practical relevance, and for advice that somehow can empower SI actors. Arguably, this also requires the theory to account for the great empirical variety in the circumstances under which SI actors seek to achieve their goals. Moreover, the theory is to account for the fact that actors tend to operate in dynamic

environments, and that the very phenomena of social innovation and change require a theoretical sensitivity to development: TSI theory is to provide a process understanding, without which its practical relevance would be limited (Geels & Schot 2010). The importance of this process understanding is also an important reason for doing the TRANSIT case studies. These in-depth investigations typically convey the complexity of dynamic processes. With respect to case studies on transformation processes it has been remarked that such process understanding may still be of limited instructional value to practitioners, however, as far as the case studies consist of retrospective, synoptic accounts of changing structures (Geels 2010; Garud & Gehman 2012; Jørgensen 2012). It is therefore relevant to consider that the empowerment value of TSI theory presupposes an engagement with processes of innovation-in-the-making as well (Bijker & Law 1992; Akrich et al. 2002a). What is more, the TRANSIT commitment to empowering research is to generate both retrospective and prospective tools (TRANSIT 2013, see figure 2.1 below).

Iteration. Finally, a most important element of the research design is that TSI theory will be developed in an iterative way. As can be seen in figure 2.1, the refinement of TSI will crucially rest on the sustained confrontation between theory formation and empirical investigation, between inductive and deductive approaches. The case comparison contained in this report forms part of the inductive stream.

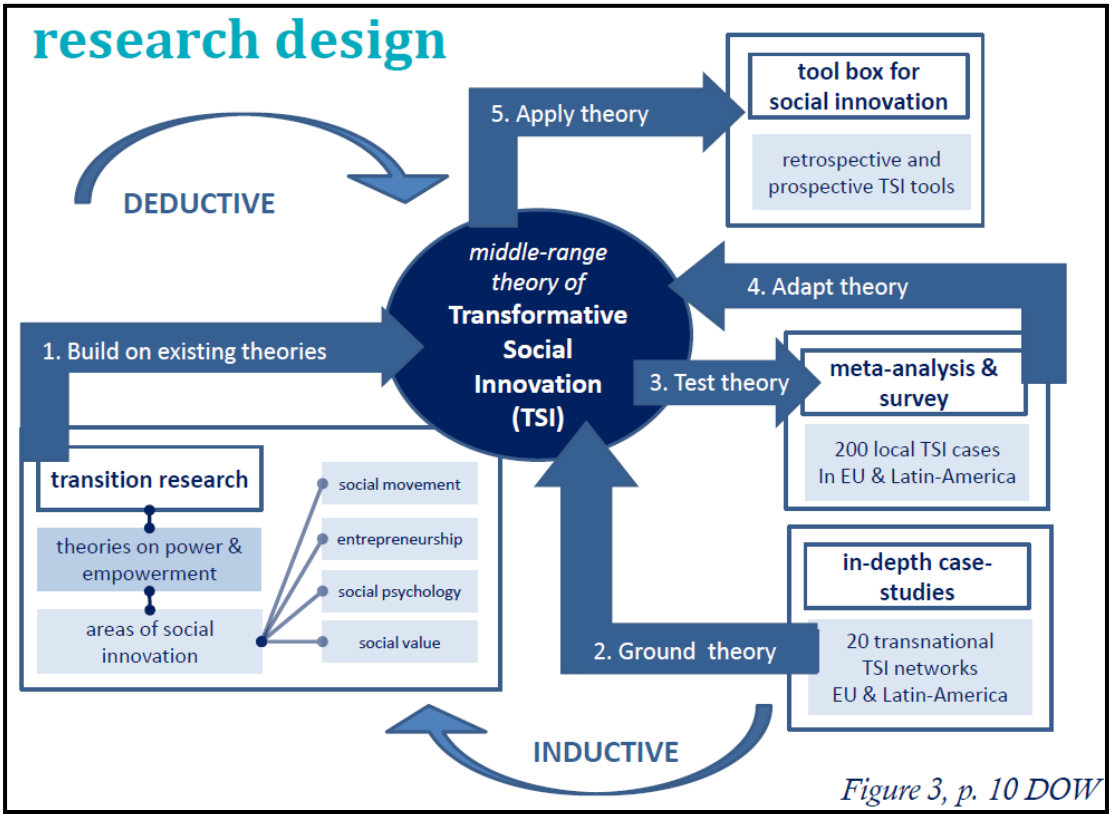


Figure 2.1 **Iterative research design**

For the specification of this iterative research design, its grounding in critical realism and the particular mix of methods it comprises, see Pel et al. (in progress). Furthermore, the principle of iteration will come forward in Chapter 3 (comparative analysis set up) and Chapter 7 (methodological reflections).

2.2 Cognitive map and sensitizing concepts

The key principle of the middle range theory development is the iteration between empirical findings and emergent theorization. This is a careful way of theory building that strongly anchors theory in empirical investigation. Other than in some principled-empiricist 'grounded' theory development however, TRANSIT acknowledges that empirical observation presupposes conceptual frameworks (Suddaby 2006; Bryant 2007). Moreover, TRANSIT considers that considerable theoretical insights are already available that provide at least parts of the answers to the research question. The following cognitive map summarizes those:

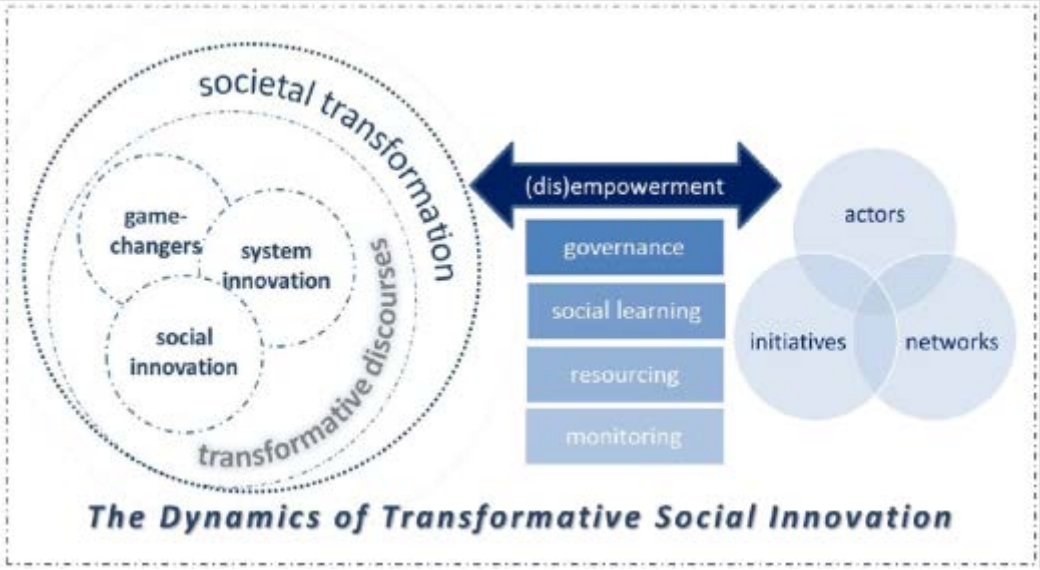


Figure 2.2 Cognitive map TRANSIT (Jørgensen et al. 2014)

Importantly, the map renders the research question answerable through empirical observation, specifying some units of analysis and bringing forward some propositions about the relations between them (Yin 2003, 27). The map is informed by theory on socio-technical transitions (TRANSIT 2013, Avelino et al. 2014, see also Haxeltine et al. 2015): First of all, the key phenomena of social innovation and transformation are seen to co-evolve with other shades of innovation and change (see Ch. 5). Second, whilst agency and structure are theorized in dynamic, recursive fashion, there is the assumption that social innovation networks are important sources of transformative agency –. TRANSIT brings forward particular propositions about the emergence and reasons of existence of networks (See Ch.4). Third, TRANSIT considers that the question of the empowerment of (networked) actors, the processes through which they gain the capacities towards

influencing the co-evolutionary process of transformation, will revolve around governance, social learning, resourcing and monitoring (See Ch. 6).

The cognitive map hardly contains directly observable entities, however. In this regard the choice has been to balance uniformity and sensitivity to particular features of cases: The methodological guidelines do provide considerable lists of sub-questions for the three above elements of the central research question. Still, they also remind case researchers of the need to interpret the cognitive map, and use it in an explorative way to discover the transformative particularities of cases. In other words, the cognitive map provides fairly general propositions to guide investigations, yet underneath the broadly defined sensitizing concepts there is considerable specification of the relevant observables.

2.3 Cases as evolving networks

TRANSIT has a particular understanding of what case studies are pertinent to TSI theory, and what cases are:

Embedded case study. TRANSIT case studies should suit the desired process understanding (2.1). Still, considering the so particularly encompassing phenomenon of study (2.2), it is accordingly important to specify what the case studies are about, precisely. Concepts (like TSI) cannot be objects of case study themselves; only concrete instantiations of the concepts can (Yin 2003, 32). This is a non-trivial issue for TRANSIT. The cognitive map suggests that empirically grounded TSI theory development requires a great many of units of analysis to be observed - comprising actors and processes on different levels of aggregation. This makes for a quite complex 'embedded case design'. Other than in a holistic case design, in which there is a clear and exclusive focus on the key phenomenon of study (an organization, a person, the lifecycle of a particular innovation), such research design also observes sub-units (organization members). As indicated by Yin (2003:50-52), the embedded case design helps the researcher to deal flexibly with the fact that the appropriate level of analysis may not be evident at the start of the research. Likewise, TRANSIT adopts an embedded case study design as the originating source of transformative social innovation is yet to be found out.

Networks, initiatives and actors as embedded units of analysis. Even when studying transformative processes in rather holistic fashion, in terms of co-evolving shades of innovation and change, TRANSIT does focus on certain groups of actors within those processes. TRANSIT has a practical interest in finding out how social innovation actors can be empowered and disempowered in these processes (see 2.2). In that regard it is questioned whether analysis should focus on individual 'social innovation champions', however. On the contrary, the cognitive map already conveys how social innovation is assumed to be a collective process, involving individual actors that associate into networks. Individual actors are therefore treated as relevant units of analysis, but not as the primary units. Rather, they are embedded units in the even more relevant units of SI initiatives, which in turn are embedded units in the transnational SI networks. As specified in the case study protocol, these local initiatives and transnational networks are the key

units of analysis that are observed for their empowerment processes and their positioning in the shades of innovation and change (Jørgensen et al. 2014, 5).

Cases as processes. Importantly, TRANSIT is not so much interested in the static properties of these networks. The research interest is not so much to lay bare the architecture of these layered networks, and to chart the momentary sizes, inputs and impacts, but rather goes out to the dynamics and development of them. In line with the conceptual framework of co-evolution and emergence, even the key observables themselves are treated as unstable entities that emerge and decline. *"The embedded case study approach allows capturing interactions between transnational networks (i.e. networking at international level) and their national, regional and local origins and manifestations over time. Rather than assuming such networking takes place, this is one of the empirical questions.)"* (Jørgensen et al. 2014, 5). In fact, this dynamic understanding of the cases identifies them as complex systems (Byrne 2005; 2009) – out of the interactions between embedded units of analysis, the cases evolve. This dynamic, complexity-acknowledging understanding of cases may be a strong point of TRANSIT: As argued in the mid-term evaluation of SI project LIPSE, it should be taken seriously that innovation is a most unstable concept, and that innovation processes require a certain longitudinal understanding of how innovations change over time (Pollitt 2015). As TRANSIT considers cases as evolving networks, the case research protocol consistently prescribes to observe changes, rather than states-of-affairs.

Porous cases. In order to focus observation and remain practically manageable, any case study design should define its units of analysis. Yet apart from defining what is in, it is also important to specify what is out. In this regard Yin (2003) shows how a research design can be sketched through the basic distinction between a case on the one hand, and its context on the other hand. By contrast, the TRANSIT cases display a quite porous division between case and context. The cases are concrete initiatives and networks and in that sense circumscribed, yet, these networks are typically relating to, pervaded by, and intertwining with the broader shades of change and innovation, with other networks, and therefore also with other TSI cases.

2.4 Case demarcation

As discussed in the previous section, we are dealing with embedded case studies of evolving networks. And as their boundaries are quite porous, the demarcation of cases is particularly challenging. TRANSIT has responded to that primarily by including a set of questions on case demarcation and development in the case study protocol (se Chapter 4). Still, even when the TRANSIT (first batch) cases have a certain open-ended nature, the case protocol does provide for three important demarcation axes: The case studies are delineated through the entities, the time span and the spatial-administrative areas covered.

Entities: Recursively defined network levels. Whilst assuming multi-level processes, the chosen approach to embedded case study does focus attention onto the 'local

initiatives' and the 'transnational networks' as principal units of analysis. Depending on the particular kind of social innovation at hand, the first can be a place, activity, community, project or program. Clearly, this definition still comprises several levels of organization. Likewise, the 'transnational networks' are fairly broadly described as *'collections of initiatives and actors that are connected to each other and share an equal concept and identity, either formally or informally. 'Transnational' implies that the network(ing) crosses national borders. The network can be more or less formalised. The level/degree of formalisation is itself a part of the empirical research'.* (Jørgensen 2014, 5). However justifiable as ways to remain responsive to the foreseeable diversity in social innovation, it needs to be realized that these fairly open-ended network levels do little delimitation .Crucially however, and this may be an example of 'mobile methods' that seek to move along with research objects deemed dynamic (Büscher & Urry 2009, see also Vayda 1983 on 'progressive contextualization'), the two network levels are defined recursively. That is to say, it is left to the researchers to develop appropriate demarcations of 'local initiatives' and 'transnational networks', yet they are to correspond with each other. The guiding idea is that, however the levels along which a particular social innovation practice seems to be organized, at least there should observation of both day-to-day activities as well as the ways in which they are supported by a next-level SI organization (Jørgensen et al. 2014, 26).

Time: historical-contemporary case studies. TRANSIT aims for a process understanding of TSI that is retrospective, whilst engaging to some extent with contemporary innovation-in-the-making (2.2). Also in this respect, the case demarcations are left quite open, considering that the networks studied differ in age. The case protocol does specify however that the networks studied will not be followed throughout the duration of TRANSIT, and directs researchers' attention to the major shifts of course that took place in network evolution (Jørgensen et al. 2014, 14). The latter suggests case researchers to zoom in onto particular episodes, if it serves this purpose. Meanwhile, cases are designed to include a timeline from inception to present, providing at least a sketchy overview of overall network evolution.

Space: SI initiatives in different welfare system contexts. As the cases constitute evolving networks, they are by definition difficult to demarcate spatially. On the contrary, the case research set-up was rather chosen to be responsive to the ways in which the SI ideas (and associated actions and objects) travel (Czarniawska & Joerges 1996). This effectively postpones spatial demarcation, or lets it be developed and reflected upon during the research process itself through progressive contextualization (Vayda 1983). Similar approaches of 'following an innovation wherever it spreads' are argued for under the 'geographical turn' in transitions studies (Coenen et al. 2012). Still, the case study protocol does specify a tripartite division within cases, featuring parallel SI initiatives in a comparative set-up. Whatever the precise demarcation choices made, each case on a transnational network is to comprise two local initiatives associated with that network. As these two local initiatives are recruited from different countries that represent examples of different kinds of welfare state (TRANSIT 2013, see further 2.6 and Ch3), there is significant spatial demarcation: Somewhat similar to comparative research in the political sciences, cases are confined to national-administrative contexts (Cf. 3.1).

2.5 Reflexive research

TRANSIT aims at socially relevant research that is empowering to SI actors, and has explicitly chosen for co-production of knowledge between case researchers and the social innovation networks and initiatives. A methodological implication of this research aim is that the case studies methodology starts from a strong commitment to reflexive research. Accordingly, the case study protocol contains several quite specific choices and issues for consideration[1]:

Proximity and distance. First of all, there is the consideration that TRANSIT case researchers should position themselves as 'critical friends' in relation to the social innovation initiatives and networks: *"...we strive for a good balance between proximity (being close to, knowing a lot about and maybe even being part of an initiative/network being studied) and distance (being independent or at least being able to perform critical and documented analysis of the initiative/network and its dynamics). The concept of 'a critical friend' or 'friendly outsider' from action research might be a way of describing our relations to the social innovation case."* (Jørgensen et al. 2014, 20). The sought balance between proximity and distance is thus a matter of not too close or and not distant observation, but also pertains to the normative position of the researcher. Case researchers are therefore instructed to be very transparent about their interpretive choices, and to be aware of pro-innovation bias (which proves hard to avoid in social innovation research according to Pollitt (2015)). Furthermore, case studies are supposed to include 'outsiders' as well, as a way to include viewpoints that complement those of the primary actors in social innovation initiatives.

Dialogue and co-production with observed actors. The commitment to knowledge co-production has been substantiated in several ways. First of all through the fairly usual procedures of development of working relations and joint discussion of findings, which are established as ways of increasing internal validity and reliability of findings (Yin, 2003). Beyond those consultations that still can be considered to primarily serve research interests, TRANSIT has chosen to explicitly invite researched networks to provide contributions to parts of the research process: As part of the case studies discussing network actors' knowledge interests as a way to specify research aims, their particular themes for case studies to explore, and their candidatures of cases to include in the research.

Mix of research techniques and data sources. The aforementioned balance between proximity and distance is not only pursued by considering the balance between 'insider' and 'outsider' perspectives. The case research guidelines and the case report format also specify that cases should be done through a mix of research techniques: After all, document/media sources, semi-structured interviews and direct observation of meetings each provide different modes of observation with different levels of proximity and

[1] These choices were based on a questionnaire held with TRANSIT researchers in April 2014.

distance, which can be combined or 'triangulated' into more balanced findings. The case research guidelines provide both description of the research techniques and rough directives for the extent they should be deployed (Jørgensen et al 2014 14-20).

2.6 Comparative case study

Having described several key methodological choices regarding the TRANSIT case studies, it has become easier to expose the comparative strategy that they are part of. TRANSIT follows an iterative, mixed-method, multiple embedded case research design. There are three distinct motives behind this comparison of multiple cases, and the overall comparative strategy is in fact closely related to other aspects of the research design discussed earlier. Before going into the specifics of the comparative set-up (Ch3.), its general rationales are outlined below.

Solidification. One motive for doing a multiple case study resides in the aim for solidification (understood as consolidation) of results.. This motive is often emphasised as crucial added value of multiple case study of singular-case designs (Cf. Eisenhardt & Graebner 2007 amongst others). This strategy of solidification also appears in the official TRANSIT project summary, which mentions that TSI will be *"...both grounded in in-depth case-studies as well as tested and generalised in a cross-national data-base".* (TRANSIT 2013, 3). The testing and generalising function is mainly assigned to the survey part of the research (Cf. Pel et al. in progress, see also figure 2.1), but still the cases compared here are considered as 24 instances of the pursued minimum of 200 observations in the survey(in total 20 networks times 10 local initiatives). So at least to a certain extent, a strategy is followed in which case studies are replicated. Very similar cases then allow for *literal* replication and actual testing of single-case findings, and other, possibly even contrasting cases (Flyvbjerg 2006) allow for *theoretical* replication. This strategy is not very prominent in TRANSIT, though, as there is in this stage no full-fledged theoretical framework of propositions that would have to guide such replication (Cf. Yin 2003, 53). Referring back to the iterative approach to TSI theory development, the proto-theory and the sensitizing concepts that have guided the case studies investigations (2.1 -2.2), solidification is not the driving motive for TRANSIT comparison.

Learning from diverse contexts. Comparison needs to serve solidification however. According to Yin (2003, 53), comparison needs to be treated as an 'extension' of single case research, but it can also be applied as it is in anthropology and political science. Comparison then primarily serves learning across different social–political contexts, and systematically charting the different ways in which a phenomenon manifests and translates. An example of such political science type comparison that is instructive for TRANSIT is Kickert et al. (2013), charting different governmental-fiscal responses to the economic crisis across the EU. As will be specified further in Ch.3, TRANSIT has chosen for a similar logic of comparison: The leading idea is that social innovation and transformation dynamics will be crucially mediated by the different social-political contexts and welfare systems that exist in Europe and Latin-America.

Complex pathways and dynamic journeys. Finally, it needs to be remembered that the TRANSIT aims for process understandings, rather than static states-of-affairs, enabling factors or barriers (2.1). Cases are conceived of as evolving networks, with embedded units of analysis and also themselves embedded in broader processes of co-evolving shades of change and innovation (sections 2.2-2.4). An implication for the comparative analysis is then that is motivated by an interest in the different pathways, courses of innovation journeys and generative mechanisms that can be reconstructed - as provisional typologies or configurations. Considering that TSI 'journeys' cannot be easily decomposed in numbers and causal factors, TRANSIT pursues the idea that these evolving networks can be compared as patterned 'configurations' (Byrne 2005; Rihoux & Ragin 2009; Schneider & Wagemann 2012; Verweij & Gerrits 2013, see also Pel & Bauler 2014).

3 Methodology of comparison

3.1 Introduction: A first phase in comparison

As clarified in the preceding chapter, comparative observations form part of a broader research design for TSI theory development. Importantly, they cannot provide a final analysis as only the first part of the empirical basis is available – especially the solidification of TSI theory will have to rely on the second batch of case studies and the survey research as well. Still these comparative observations based on the first batch of case studies constitute an important milestone within the overall research process. Through comparison, it becomes clear to what extent and how the 12 single (embedded) case studies add up, and how they meet the intended added values of solidification, learning across contexts and identification of 'journey' typologies. These comparative observations have been generated through the following clusters of methodological choices and procedures: After a description of case selection criteria (3.2), it is explained how we –as the authors of this comparative report, not the much larger group of case researchers - have moved from harmonization and extraction (3.3) to condensation and identification of emergent patterns (3.4).

3.2 Case selection

If the multiple-case is to yield the anticipated benefits of solidification, comparison across contexts and identification of generative mechanisms underlying TSI, cases will need to be selected along some replication principle, or at least guided by clear ideas about their differences and similarities. In this regard there are two main axes along which the cases have been selected. First, they have been selected for their apparent adherence to particular kinds of transformative paradigms and discourses, and second, they have been selected to represent different socio-political contexts. Apart from those main selection principles there were the two additional considerations that the set of cases should comprise diversity in originating societal sectors, and in level of formalisation. Finally there were several side constraints that further limited the set of eligible cases.

Transformative paradigms and discourses. Following the initial conceptual framework that informed this first phase of empirical research, the cases have been recruited as social innovation networks in certain policy areas, forming part of three particular transformative paradigms/discourses and responding to three particular game-changers. The three selecting game-changers are (see figure 3.1): 1) the present financial crisis; 2) climate change and 3) the ICT-revolution[2] .

[2] ICT: Information and Communication Technology

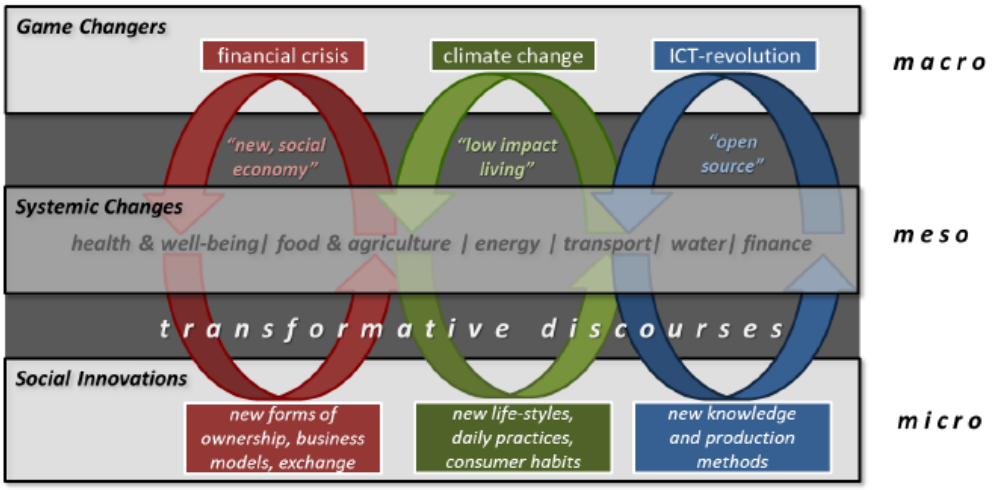


Figure 3.1 – Three Sets of Game-Changers–Transformative Discourses–Social Innovations for Empirical Research Source: (Murray et al. 2010)

As described in TRANSIT (2013, 55), the further challenge for empirical research is *"…to analyse how and to what extent the interaction between game-changers, transformative paradigms and social innovations, leads to systemic changes at the level of various sectors/policy areas."* The relevance of these and other game-changers is analyzed in Chapter 5. This analysis ascertains whether the selected cases indeed relate to the game-changers as conjectured ex ante, namely as displayed in table 3.2.

International comparison. As indicated in section 2.6, the comparative strategy of learning across contexts is prominent within TRANSIT. This has informed the choice to select cases across various countries, representing different 'social models' or types of welfare system. The idea is that precisely these contexts of differently evolved and evolving social relations allow for learning across contexts. *"The project involves empirical comparison of Europe with Latin America, so as to enable intercontinental, cross-contextual comparison between emerging and industrialized economies. Latin America is particularly interesting to learn from regarding transformative social innovation, due to its high level development of social movements and inclusive innovation policies. Latin America has a long tradition of social movements, which have translated past opposition strategies into experimental social innovations in solidarity economy across various policy areas. During the last years there has been a movement of institutionalization of social innovations in the region, which provides a unique space of interaction between governments, community and market. The comparisons with Latin America will enable TRANSIT to comparatively analyse how the transformative potential of social innovations are up-scaled to a systemic, institutional level, and how actors at various levels and from varying sectors, regions and localities are empowered to contribute to social innovations and systemic change."* (TRANSIT 2013, 49).

Table 3.2: The selected 12 transnational networks for the first batch of TRANSIT case studies[3]

	Transnational Networks	Transformative Discourses			Short Description of Networks
1	The Impact Hub	A	B	C	Network of social entrepreneurs providing co-creation places ("Hubs") in > 60 cities around the world
2	Ashoka	A			Network for supporting social entrepreneurs, incl. association of 3,000 social entrepreneur 'fellows' in 70+ countries around the world
3	Time Banks	A			Networked entities that facilitate reciprocal service exchange using time as currency all over the world
4	Credit Unions	A			Global network grouping and representing credit cooperatives all over the world, including 44 members in 54 countries.
5	RIPESS	A			*Intercontinental Network for the Promotion of the Social Solidarity Economy* connects solidarity economy networks
6	FabLabs	A		C	Network of 189 digital fabrication workshops for communities, incl. open source design and manufacturing resources.
7	Hackerspaces	A		C	Global network of 1330+ physical sites where experiments are made in open source, commons-based, peer-production
8	Living Knowledge Network	A	B	C	Network of 'Science Shops': scientific research in cooperation with citizens and local and national civil society organisations
9	DESIS-network		B	C	Global network of design labs supporting 'social innovation towards sustainability', including 30+ labs all over the world.
10	Global Ecovillage Network	A	B		Global network of 500 ecovillages and other intentional co-communities, incl. European and Latina American subdivisions
11	Transition Network	A	B		Global network including 450 grassroots community initiatives working on "local resilience"
12	INFORSE	A	B		*International Network for Sustainable Energy,* 140 NGOs in 60+ countries, promoting sustainable energy and social inclusion

	Transformative Discourses	*Game Changers*	*Social Innovations*
A	New, Social Economy	Financial Crisis	Innovations in ownership, business models, methods of exchange. Policy areas: health, welfare, employment, finance
B	Low Impact Living	Climate Change	Innovations in life-styles, daily practices, consumer habits. Policy areas: energy, mobility, food, agriculture, water
C	Open Source	ICT-revolution	Innovations in research, production, sharing of information. Policy areas: R&D, education, participation, employment

Within the comparison between Europe and Latin America, the idea is that Argentina and Brazil, and the several European contexts, both cover the within-continent variety to a similar extent.

Societal sectors. A third selection principle was that the cases should be evenly spread across the different societal institutions of markets, state and civil society, and the 'third

[3] *"Subsequently, for the second phase of empirical analysis, approx. 8 additional networks will be identified in relation to additionally identified game-changers and transformative discourses."* TRANSIT (2013)

sector' "placed" in between those. This first batch can be seen (figure 3.3) to cover many interfaces between societal institutions.

Side constraints. Finally, there have been side constraints to the selection of cases. As also stressed by Yin (2003), access was a crucial one. Only cases were selected where networks had an operative website and international contact point, and/or where TRANSIT researchers had established contacts.

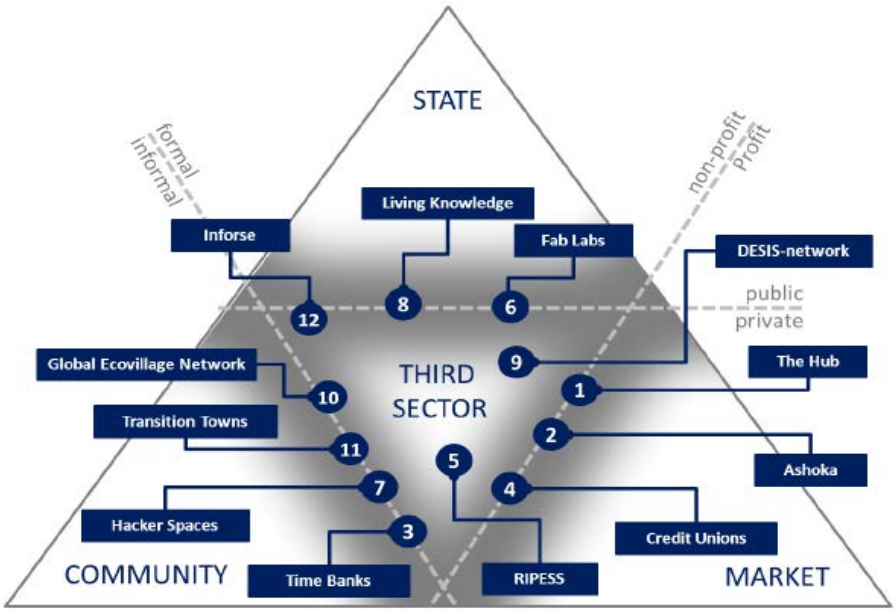


Figure 3.3 – Networks and Third Sector, government, community, market involvement (TRANSIT 2013, 57)

3.3 Harmonization and extraction

If the comparative case study is to have added value for TSI theory development as anticipated, such as learning across contexts (see 3.1), the cases should of course be comparable. This is non-trivial as case study research is rather focused on case particularities. Moreover, case studies have not only been undertaken in different contexts, they also have been undertaken by different research teams – which in itself creates potentials for diverging measurements and interpretations. Important methodological choices have therefore been made to balance uniformity and attentiveness to case particularities and to ensure similarities and differences between the cases can be systematically analyzed. After case selection, two other steps in the comparative analysis are harmonization (II) and extraction (III).

Harmonization. As case study literature stresses to be of vital importance, TRANSIT has established an elaborate case study protocol. Jørgensen et al. (2014) lays down extensive explanations of the proto-theory and related sensitizing concepts through the cognitive

map (Cf. 2.2), provides substantial lists of operational questions to specify the main research questions, explains the research techniques to be deployed, and provides various guidelines for case demarcation. Moreover, the protocol seeks to achieve a certain harmonization in researcher-case relations, which in themselves can give rise to most diverging kinds of case studies.

Still, notwithstanding the measures towards harmonization, these guidelines leave considerable choices to the researcher (in demarcation, for example, see 2.4). This combination of harmonization and explorative flexibility has eventually been formalized in a case report format. This standardized structure for case reports also ensured that reports of local initiatives and transnational networks (see 2.3) kept to the same categories, and worked towards an overall synthesis along the same lines.

Extraction. The case report templates have been designed to count about 70 pages – distributed over one transnational network, two local initiatives, and a synthesis and also including introduction, methodological account and overview of sources. As many reports exceeded this size, the material of the 12 case reports together counts more than 1000 pages. This obviously leaves the need for a way of extracting information that allows analysis with less sizeable documents. In order to achieve a better access to the reports[4], the synthesis chapters provided a first foothold. Based on these synthesis chapters, and where necessary also the more extensive analyses in other chapters in the case reports, extraction into summarizing tables were developed as 'working tools'. Eventually, this yielded 12 summarizing tables, counting about 20 pages each.

3.4 Condensation and emergent patterns

Importantly, the extraction into the summarizing tables has been facilitated by a rigorous structuring of the case reports along four clusters of research questions. These distinct themes (1) development of network; 2) positioning in shades of innovation and change; 3) ways of empowerment and disempowerment, and 4) emerging issues and knowledge needs) have allowed breaking down the next two steps of comparison into four clusters, namely condensation and identification of emergent patterns. The results for these four clusters are presented separately in Chapters 4-6, and have been developed as follows.

Condensation: As our analysis makes use of the case reports developed by the TRANSIT case researchers, it starts with way the case reports have been structured and harmonized: In order to guide the researchers in their research process, the cognitive map and the four main research questions have been considered to be in need of specification. The case guidelines and also the case report formats therefore contain a detailed structure of sub-questions. A crucial step in this comparative analysis was therefore to go through an inverse process of condensation, seeking to merge the many sub-questions into some

[4] To the authors of this report, who themselves have only been involved with one third of the case studies.

key salient issues. Important considerations were that concise answers should be provided at least to the main research questions and that findings should be easily communicable through tables or diagrams. Furthermore, a certain parsimony seemed necessary especially in this phase of the research – the condensation has therefore steered towards relatively simple and solid conclusions, as stepping stones for deepening analyses.

Emergent patterns: In line with the parsimonious condensation into key dimensions of TSI processes, the next chapters in this report provide quite careful comparative observations. To some extent the integrated tables and charts are only overviews, as 12 cases with each three elements allows only for very condensed entries. Even these general overviews with not very spectacular themes have allowed formulating some striking similarities and differences, however, and some tentative typologies (chapter 4-6) and propositions for future research (chapter 8) beyond those. Where possible, the development of typologies was aided by the main two axes of comparison, namely social context and narratives of change (Cf. 3.1).

The particular development of findings will become transparent in chapters 4-6.

4 Development in transnational social innovation networks and initiatives

4.1 Introduction

The overarching goal of this chapter is to give an overview of the development of the different networks and local initiatives under study. A timeline covering all 12 networks and their local initiatives has been developed in order to visualize general characteristics of their development. In addition, three sets of typologies are developed focusing on organisation types, ways of funding, types of expansion, relation between global and local levels etc. It should be noted that the words "movement" and "network" are both used in the chapter to describe the subject of the different cases. "Movement" here in general refers to the subject area before formalization into a network, or in some cases to the movement at large and thereby not only to the subset of initiatives that has chosen to form a network together. "Network" refers to a specifically defined and formalized entity, like Living Knowledge whose equivalent movement would be "community based research initiatives" or just the "science shop movement".

It should be kept in mind that the development of these case studies may not be generalizable to the area in general. The typologies were developed iteratively through the NVIVO software, where especially chapter 1, 3 and 6 of all case reports were coded, and the information sorted and recoded as clusters of interesting similarities and characteristics developed.

4.2 Historical development and trajectories

4.2.1 Timeline of transnational networks and local initiatives

The diagram on the next page illustrates the timeline of when the different transnational networks were established and formalized and related to their corresponding local initiatives studied in the case study. The upper part of the diagram shows the international activities, and how long before the international activities were formalized that the movement started (the dashed lines). The time units used are not the same for the whole time line, as the scale increases on the right side, as most of the networks and local initiatives in this batch of case studies developed within the recent 10-15 years. The bottom part of the diagram shows when the local initiatives were started, as compared to the network.

There are several difficulties in such a diagram as the level of formalization differs a lot (see section 4.2) so it is difficult to conclude when a network can be considered "formalized". Some networks remains largely loose, i.e. they are not legal entities and have

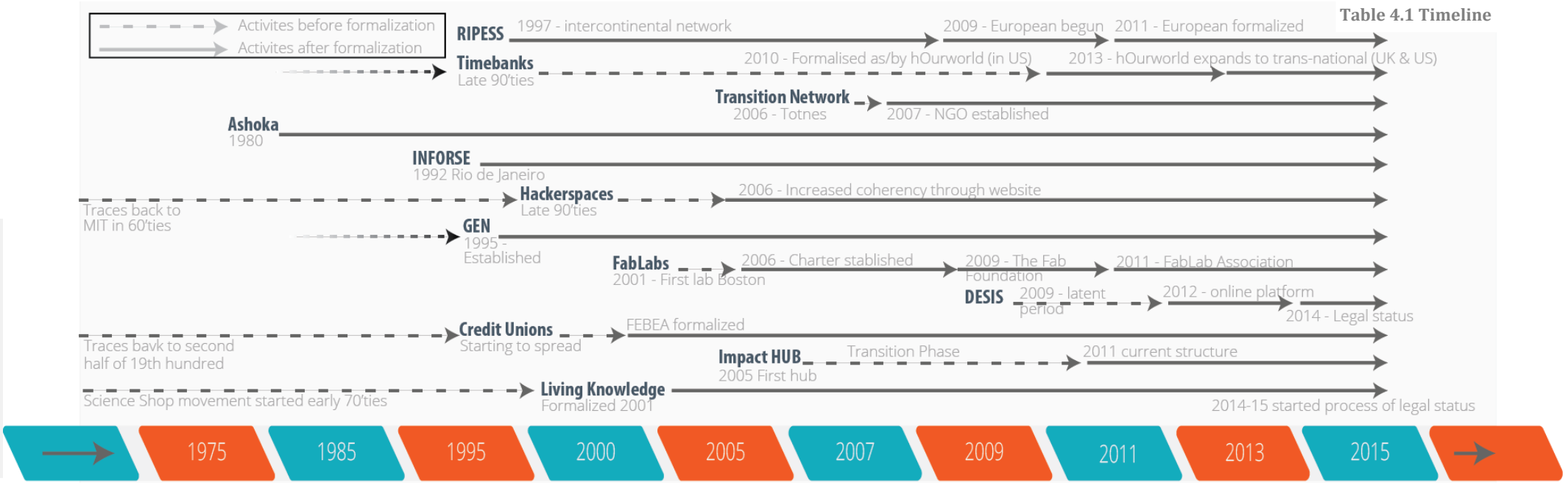
little internal governance. In some networks, there is also a dispute about which network is "the" international network, as several are competing.

Lastly, there are the dates. When can we speak of an international network, and when just a lot of separate but like-minded initiatives? In the timeline, it is generally marked when activities have been explicitly named/mentioned with a date[5], and the dotted lines point to the date of formalization. Here the definition – aspects of what and when – of formalization is open to interpretation: from Ashoka to Hackerspaces that are two extremes, which still both can be regarded as formalized. To encompass both, formalization will here merely mean that there is some form of collaboration/ communication between initiatives on an international scale and that there is some kind of self-understanding and shared aim. Legal status, organisational forms, formal memberships and so forth is not necessarily a part of formalization.

A last challenge is the information available and different styles of the case study reports, where some focus less on the early history and are lighter on dates, making it hard to determine when and if something is a transnational network. Some cases report that accounts from the early days are sparse and/or and that people's testimony diverts from each other. Further collection of dates has not been done for this report. Therefore the timeline only show dates reported in the case study reports.

[5] Most all of the networks are the results of a long history of other events, so the starting dates in the diagram does not imply that there were no activities before this date.

Table 4.1 Timeline



Local RIPESS			VOSEC (Belgium) 1997				CRIES (Romania) 2009			
Local Hackerspaces							Build Brighton 2009	Hacklab Barracas 2011		
Local Science shops	Science Shop DTU 1985		InterMEDIU Romania 1997-1998						Science Shop DTU 2012 - Ceased	
Local Ashoka initiatives			Ashoka Hungary 1994		Ashoka Germany 2005					
Local Impact Hubs						São Paulo 2007	Rotterdam and Amsterdam 2008			
Local Transition Towns					Transition Totnes 2006		Transition Wekerle 2008			
Local timebanks			Fair Shares (UK) 1998		Catalonien Time Bank network 2005				Ser-Hacer 2012	
Local Credit Unions		Initiatives in the UK 1989		FIARE (Spain) 2003						
Local DESIS						NAS DESIGN (Brazil) 2007		POLIMI DESIS (Italy) 2011		
Local FabLabs							FabLab Amersfoort 2010		FabLab Argentina 2014	
Local GEN			Tamera 1995				Schloss Tempelhof 2010			
Local INFORSE	Vedvarende Energi (Denmark) 1975		APERé 1991							

Table 4.2 - Size & Age of networks

Size & geography table	Age	Levels *International*	*national local*		*Countries*	*Initiatives*	*Individuals*	Geography *Headquarter*	*Dominance(?)*	
RIPESS	18 years (formally)	Several networks	Several networks	organizations involved in social economy activities	Many	Unknown		Virtual	Canada/Francophone?	
Hackerspaces	8 years (*formal*) 50-60 years (informal)	Hackerspaces web page	None	Hackerspaces (and various other names)		400 member locations		None	No	
Living Knowledge	14 Years (formal) 30-40 years (informal)	Living Knowledge network (LK)	Some national networks (not directly related to LK)	Science Shops	Mostly Europe	70+ initiatives (400 on mailing list)		Virtual/ dispersed	Northern/Western Europe	
Ashoka	35 years (formal)	Ashoka owns all local offices	There generally is only one office in a country, so national and local is the same. Some offices may act as centre for several countries.		Fellows from 70 countries	37 initiatives (offices)	More than 3000 Ashoka fellows.	US	US-based organisation, plus certain locations generating substantial funds (e.g Germany)	
Impact Hubs	8 years (formally)	global Hub association	National hubs		5 continents	63 impact hubs	7.500 to 11.000 local entrepreneurs	Austria	No (*developed world?)*	
Transition Network	8 years (formally)	Transition network (TN)	National - not all are members of TN	Transition Initiatives	43 countries	1120 initiatives	N/A	UK - Same office as first local initiative (Totnes)	Historically there has been UK dominance within Transition Network although this has started to change.	
Time Banks	5 years (formal) 30-180 years (informal)	H0urworld (2010)	National/regional networks	Time banks	Many (US & UK is the focus here)	600 time banks (US & UK)	25475 members (US)	Dispersed	No	

Credit Unions	25 years (Formal/ Norwich) 150 years (informal)	Several international networks	Several national networks	Local credit unions	14 countries (FEBEA)	26 members (FEBEA)	almost 1 million clients in Europe	Almost virtual organisation, 1 person in Brussels	*Seems to be a southern European dominance*	
DESIS	2 years (formal) 3 years (informal)	DESIS network	Some national networks (self-organized)	DESIS labs	23 countries	48 schools involved	N/A	Italy (to be changed every two years)	International	
FabLabs	13 years (formal)	Fab Network and MIT (numerous institutions)	Some national networks	FabLabs	60 countries	440 FabLabs	Many	US	No	
GEN	20 years (formal) 450 years (informal)	Global Ecovillage network; 5 continental networks, Youth Network NextGEN	National associations	Local villages	In more than 60 countries worldwide	400 villages on GEN data base(57 GEN members) Some articles list 15.000 villages globally.	Difficult to estimate: more than hundred thousand	Europe GEN International has no headquarter, but each of the 5 regional networks in every continent has.	Strong in Europe and the global south, especially Senegal and Sri Lanka.	
INFORSE	40 years (formally)	INFORSE	National energy organisations			132 (in 2002)		European secretariat in Denmark		

An interesting observation is how formalization happened around the turn of the millennium roughly in the period of 1995-2005, especially of the oldest movements among the cases. The timeline also shows a clustering of activities in the recent years, but this may be due to the specific case studies chosen, and may not be representative of the area at large. The combination of the local initiative overview with the general timeline of the international networking also shows something of the focus in the case studies, whether the focus has been on rather new initiatives or old ones.

Table 4.2 gives an overview of the age and size of the different networks. This overview is again dependent on both the different case reports and the nature of the networks. For instance, GEN might be relevant for anywhere from 400-15,000 ecovillages worldwide, while only 400 ecovillages are listed in GENs database and GEN lists 57 members. This also leads to an interesting observation on the size of a movement in general compared to whom a network represents, which ranges from almost everyone to a small sub-section. Another discussion is the potential target group, where Living Knowledge for instance has a strong focus on initiatives at universities. Some of the cases also contain alternative international networks, i.e. there are several alternative transnational networks for time banks. There is also an observation on how these networks relate to the individuals that they seek to empower. Some networks are rather closed or restrictive like Ashoka (with regard to the Fellows), while Time Banks in principle are open to anyone. Another question of definition is who these individuals are. Credit Unions have 1 million clients, while Ashoka have 3000 fellows, which looks disproportionate, but the social enterprise these Ashoka fellows start or work with also contain many individuals as well. Lastly, there is some observation on the geographical coverage of a transnational network, is it worldwide, continental, how many countries, and is it dominated by certain countries, areas, contexts etc. Very few of the case reports discuss this in depth, but RIPESS observes that it has a strong connection with Canada and Francophone Europe, and Living Knowledge has many members in Europe while there are like-minded activities on other continents. Other cases, like FabLabs, seem to be dominated by certain demographics, here rather well-educated males.

In short, the table and diagram gives an overview and impression of the different movements, but the definitions and how the numbers, dates and other data are divided and represented is an important aspect of what can be observed from it.

4.3 Networking clusters, typologies, and levels

Making a typology is complicated, as overgeneralization and simplification rob away the real information and value from the case studies, while a wordy and literary typology does not give the overview that is the purpose. This typology has been developed in an iterative process where it initially started out as a 20-page document with quotes from the case reports sorted into categories, and resorted several times, and eventually ending up in an excel sheet sorted into common categories. The typologies are almost exclusively based directly on the case study reports, but have in a few cases been supplemented with further information. The excel sheet served as the basis for defining the typologies, based on what seemed to be common characteristics.

4.3.1 Overall development trajectories

This section on development trajectories mainly focuses on two aspects: how the movements have grown and spread, and the nature of the network formalization. Based on the initial observation from reading the case reports it is possible to make some common groupings on these characteristics. We have identified four overall types of development trajectories among the case studies: Spread of local initiatives, directly from one local initiative to a transnational network, controlled expansion, and simultaneous development and co-influence.

Development of independent local initiatives before network formalisation
Living Knowledge, Credit Unions, INFORSE, Hackerspaces, DESIS, RIPESS, GEN

- Local initiatives predating any network formation
- These initiatives tend to have a higher than average age among the sample of cases
- The networks remain loose after formalisation
- The formalized networks are typically only covering a subset of the existing local initiatives in the movement. Sometimes there are competing transnational networks.

First, there are the local movements that spread as local initiatives without any overall structure or guidance from any formalized organization. This is the case especially among the older movements, like Living Knowledge, Credit Unions and INFORSE, to some degree also Hackerspaces. First after the movement is widespread internationally its starts to coagulate, and eventually formalize a transnational network. However, even after formalization these networks seem to be quite loose or "thin". In the Living Knowledge network there is a quite wide interpretive flexibility of the concept as local initiatives use various names (science shop, community research unit, etc.) and models of operation. There are also local initiatives within the movement who never became part of the transnational network. There is likewise little internal governance to speak of. Hackerspaces likewise is very open to how local initiatives interpret and implement a space, and various names are used by such spaces. The coherency seems mostly to come through a common webpage. Lastly, there are Credit Unions with different transnational networks.

RIPESS and DESIS are network formations from previously existing initiatives, much like the other networks, but there may be a distinction if it is previously affiliated initiatives who coagulate into a more formal network, or it is previously unrelated initiatives that start to form a new network, which might entail some negotiation and realignment. In others words, these initiatives were not part of a "movement" before they started working together. What, if any, significance this has in difference to the other networks in this cluster might relate to the processes that lead to network formation.

Directly from one local initiative to network organisation
FabLabs, Transition Network

- The first local initiative as outset for transnational inspiration and networking
- Early formation of transnational network

- The dissemination is from the outset guided by the initial local initiative
- The network encompasses, at least initially, all local initiatives and not only a subset of initiatives

The second trajectory type may start with a local initiative or just an idea, and then jump directly to some form of formalizing the idea, which becomes the basis for dissemination and transnational networking. FabLabs started from a course at MIT and a pilot lab in Boston. After the first lab, a model was formalized with a "package" for setting up a lab for $100,000. The network then expanded out of the control of the founder and MIT, and goes through further formalization as the now numerous local initiatives negotiate and establish a charter, and continue developing institutions of the network as the Fab Foundation. All FabLabs are still affiliated with the network but the founders are no longer in control of the FabLab concept and the network. Like FabLabs, the Transition Network belongs to this trajectory as the network support organisation was established by the first transition town in Totnes, to facilitate the spread of the model. More recently, some power has shifted to the 'national hubs' which represent the movement in different countries. However, relations with the hubs varies, some have signed a formal Memorandum of Understanding whereas others have looser relations with the movement as a whole.

Guided expansion
Ashoka, Impact Hubs

- The transnational network is formed early
- The network encompasses all initiatives
- The network is centralized, and local initiatives have to be evaluated and accepted

The third trajectory somewhat mirrors the second: an idea or an initial local initiative develops fast into a transnational network. However, in some cases this formalization leads to a - among our cases - comparatively centralized network, like the Ashoka organisation that formally owns all local offices. Ashoka is somewhat a different kind of network than FabLabs or Living Knowledge, as it is an exclusive club where potential candidates have to be evaluated and accepted, whereas in some other network actors can just join and participate. This closed nature may make it easier to maintain control of the network. In Ashoka universal procedures and programs are created with regard to the fundamental activities taking place at any local initiative. Bottom-up ideas and local creativity are also promoted, if new activities go in line with organisational mission and vision, accepted by central decision making bodies, and fund is raised to finance them. Impact Hub to some degree shares this trajectory, as the brand is owned by the global Impact Hub company (even though the members co-own the association that owns the company), new hubs need to be evaluated and accepted like the candidates in Ashoka, and the principal actors in the Impact Hub association tries to maintain coherency in the network. The Impact Hub development somewhat mirrors FabLabs, as the number of initiatives suddenly increased rapidly, the initial definition came into negotiation, and the network was eventually re-established and reorganized. It is in short a decentralized co-owned network with a strictly managed expansion, as the Impact Hub association still manages the brand which new hubs need a licence from the global Impact Hub company to use.

Simultaneous development and co-influence
Time Banks

- Local initiatives and membership organisations form more-or-less simultaneously
- Different networks of local initiatives and membership organisations may form
- These may subsequently cooperate, perhaps merging, or may remain as alternatives

A fourth trajectory is when local initiatives and network organisations are co-formed, which may arise because the operational and supporting functions of the social innovation separate out very clearly, with the former constituting the practice carried out through the local initiatives and the latter constituting complementary facilitating actions and activities that are best addressed at meta-level and provided to local initiatives through a support organisation. It may be that some of those involved in creating the first local initiative almost immediately create an umbrella organisation to support their own and other local initiatives (as was the case with Timebanking UK) or that an existing organisation with a more general mandate to support social innovations taken on the role of supporting a specific new social innovation (as was the case with the NGO Health & Family in Spain). In this trajectory it is possible for several different network organisations to form, to co-exist and to grow, each with an associated set of local initiatives as members. The membership organisations may be differently constituted, organized and governed and may exert stronger or weaker influence or control over their members and over the ways in which the local initiatives and the social innovation evolve. This may lead to some significant differences between networks. Different dynamics are then possible, including partnership, merger, co-existence and competition among networks.

4.3.2 Rationale and purpose of the initiatives

This typology relates to the purpose and rationale behind the different networks. An interesting contrast is between the movement, a transnational network and local initiatives and the group that they are "targeting". Three categories of initiatives have been identified: Save the world, the emancipation movements, and entrepreneur support. Some initiatives might belong to more than one category

Save the world – the good example
GEN, Transition Network, INFORSE, Time Banks

- Tries to develop a more sustainable society – may have either environmental, social, economic etc. focuses.
- See the current economic system in society as prioritising values incorrectly

These movements are characterized by having, to some degree, a focus on developing themselves and their ideas, although they are also trying to affect actors outside the local initiatives through communication of the ideas and the results. They want to change the world,

make society more sustainable, changing the economy to have a more fair valuation, and other focuses, and they want to do it by example, experimenting with new forms of living. INFORSE may belong here to some degree, as the members are living the good example i.e. using renewable energy, however the role and aim of INFORSE is affecting society at large through other means than the good example.

Emancipation movements
Living Knowledge, Credit Unions, RIPASS, INFORSE, DESIS, Transition Network, (FabLabs, Hackerspaces)

- Targeting groups outside the movement
- Having an ideological purpose to some degree related to democratic and sustainable development
- Some of the initiatives provide infrastructure for cooperation

These networks are generally ideologically motivated, at least in the rationale behind the network, and aim at empowering more or less well defined groups outside their own initiatives. Take Living Knowledge that focuses on empowering civil society by offering free access to research, connecting civil society organisations with researchers and students. Some FabLabs and Hackerspaces may belong to this group, but the local initiatives differ a lot in their rationale.

Entrepreneur support
Ashoka, Impact Hubs, FabLabs, Hackerspaces

- Likewise targeting a group outside the movement
- Developing different types of infrastructure for entrepreneurial activity

The customers of Impact Hub - technically the paying members of the local hubs - are regarded as members of the movement and also the target group that the network aims at enabling in their innovative entrepreneurial pursuits and helping to have an impact. Thus members and local Impact Hub organizers are part of their own project to change themselves and based on it, change the world. Ashoka is likewise aiming at empowering social entrepreneurs. FabLabs, according to the Fab Lab Foundation, also aim at supporting inventors, while they also are some focus on making the world a better place. FabLabs and Hackerspaces may partially belong elsewhere, as the movements have an ideological and political rationale behind it. However, the local initiatives' diverge a lot from each other, with Amersfoort wanting to use the tools of digital fabrication for the good of the community and local economy. The two movements are in general focused on providing help-to-self-help. There are large discrepancies between different members of these two networks in how politically motivated they are. In addition, it seems that some of the local initiatives might as well interchange their movement or network affiliation.

4.3.3 The nature and necessity of transnational networks – what are they doing

The last typology deals with the nature and activities of the transnational networks. This relates closely to the activities of the local initiatives in the networks, but focus on the transnational organisation and the networking activities in themselves: what do the local initiatives need and what do they want these networks to do. The networks can be summarized in these types: Network with service organisations, network owners, distributed networks, and informal networking.

Networks with service organisations
Time Banks, FabLabs, Transition Network, Credit Unions, GEN, Impact Hub

- The networks include a transnational service organisation
- Provide various services to their members
    - Mentoring and teaching
    - Connecting local initiatives
    - Lobbying
    - Providing a platform
    - Organising events
- Some of these organisations were formerly movement leaders or common frameworks.
- Strong core/centre of the network

In the case of Time Banks the network provides all of the services just listed and additionally develops time banking software and takes on legal challenges for members. It also actively encourages and supports the establishment of new local initiatives. Credit Unions are lobbying for the credit unions in the EU, FabLabs provides training courses, and GEN arranges conferences and events. Some of the networks were created by already existing local initiatives as they were in need of the service, or the networks have actively supported the growth of the network through the services they provide. In some instances already existing distributed networks may have converted to service organisations by formalising themselves as legal entities and transferring resources to the organisation. Currently Living Knowledge is undergoing a process to register the network as an NGO in Germany.

Impact Hub may fit here as the stated aim of the network is to provide service to the members, and they have democratic procedures where all Hubs have one vote, and the members co-own the association that own the company that manages the Impact Hub brand license. However, Impact Hubs is in relation to this category not that different from the FabLab network, although it seems like the Impact Hub association still is the focal point of the network whereas the FabLab network has many competing structures. Furthermore, the global Impact Hub company owns the brand and the association tries to maintain coherency among the members, so Impact Hub may also be fit in the next category – network owners – together with Ashoka.

The common denominator is that the function of the transnational network organisation is to provide services for or to the members, and they have their own resources to do so, independently of the local initiatives.

Network owners
Ashoka

- These network organisations own/control the local initiatives
- They try to enforce conformity in organisation, activities, and/or purpose
- These networks encompass the whole movement and not only a subset

Ashoka directly owns the local initiatives, which makes it easier to control the network. The Impact Hub Company and Ashoka are both service organisations, aiming at empowering their respective target groups. The difference compared to the networks with service organisations is that Ashoka and Impact Hub try to maintain control of the local initiatives. Impact Hub is at their core a democratic organisation, which is why it was allocated into the service organisation category instead.

The common denominator is the configuration around a central organisation that has a high degree of influence on how the network develops – unlike networks with service organisations where the network organisations are subservient to the network members.

Distributed networks
RIPESS, Living Knowledge, DESIS, INFORSE

- These networks may or may not be legal entities
- They have few or no activities run by the network core
- The network centres are thin – with no or little staff, and relying on virtual structures
- Activities taking place are generally conducted by the members
- An interesting aspect is the symbolic value of being part of an international network
- Sharing of knowledge and experience is a key feature

Distributed networks are like a club of likeminded entities who may collaborate from time to time, but otherwise have no formal relationship with each other. The networks may serve a function in presenting the members as a united group, and thus enabling them to engage external actors like the EU Commission to get funding. It is also a general characteristic that these networks were born bottom-up, with the exception of DESIS Labs where Manzini played an important role in getting the network up and running. However, even for DESIS Labs, the hosts of the local initiatives that are members of the network were pre-existing initiatives. The reason these distributed networks have not formed service organisations are in some cases related to lack of resources or lack of registration as legal entities.

Informal networking
Hackerspaces

- No transnational network organisation that carries out regular activities

A fourth type, informal networking, was found among the historic development of some of the networks, but is currently only somewhat represented by Hackerspaces. The initiatives carry out the purpose of the movement themselves as well, and do not act as a network organisation.

Hackerspaces do not even have any informal network organisation, and the common homepage is not something that the network has set up in collaboration, and the local spaces do not use it very much anymore according to some local initiatives. There are events in the network though, like Brighton Mini Maker fair, but it is fully managed by a local initiative. There are also references to well-known and influential Hackerspaces, especially one in Berlin, which is regarded as a well-known space with a long history in the movement.

5 Aspects of change and innovation in social innovation

As stated earlier, the overall research question of TRANSIT is "*How does social innovation interact with other forms of (transformative) change, and how are actors (dis)empowered therein?*" (Haxeltine et al. 2014: 4). This chapter focuses on the first part of this research question and the related hypothesis that: "*Societal transformation is shaped and produced by particular patterns of interaction between social innovation, system innovation, game-changers and narratives of change*." (Avelino et al. 2014: 5). All case studies have been reporting on how the networks and the initiatives engage with and relate to (different forms of) 'innovation' and 'change' (cf. Jørgensen et al. 2014: 29).

Based on the individual case study reports (as listed in Annex 1) and making use of overview tables, this chapter first ***empirically describes*** the different shades of change that the cases interact with. It describes the 'social innovations' of these cases, their interaction with existing systems and how they (aim to) innovate these, their interaction with macro-developments that (are perceived to) change the rules of the game, their interaction with societal discourses on change and innovation including their own narratives on how they change the world (if applicable) and finally how these interactions add up (or not) to societal transformation. In doing so, the focus is on the relation of cases to societal transformation in terms of their ambition to change, their practices and the actual changes that took place over time. Secondly, it ***comparatively discusses*** these descriptions and provides observations and conclusions as well as further questions.

In referring to the cases in the tables and text, this chapter refers to the **overall case** including transnational networking and local manifestations. Thus, if a specific type of social innovation is only practiced in/by one of the local manifestations it is treated as being part of the overall case, even it is not practiced in the networking or the other local manifestation. Rather than being very specific, this way of working allows to provide an overview of the diversity of these networks. There are instances, where the descriptions and analysis will be more specific to allow for more nuance and discussion. This is unproblematic for most of the cases which have a strong common identity, such as Impact Hub or Ashoka, while for others this is challenging such as Fab Lab, or Hackerspaces. If necessary, editorial remarks are placed between […].

5.1 Social innovation

In TRANSIT we define social innovation as follows: "*new social practices, including new (combinations of) ideas, models, rules, social relations and/or products*" (Avelino et al. 2014:9). Table 5.1 outlines whether or not the term social innovation is used explicitly in the discourse of the case, and describes the social innovation of the case.

Table 5.1: Overview of the social innovation(s) per case

	Explicit	Description of the social innovation(s)
Ashoka	Yes	Ashoka promotes social entrepreneurship, a new social sector and business ethos focusing on social next to financial impact. It builds a global community of change makers and social entrepreneurs to increase the impact of carefully selected and supported (finance, networks) Ashoka Fellows.
Credit Unions	No	The innovative aspects of credit cooperatives and ethical banks are: 1) support a change in the main objective (to social and environmental gain) of economic activity; 2) embed financial relationships in place-based social relationships and activities based on principles of trust, cooperation and solidarity; 3) switch the focus from financial dependency to financial autonomy; 4) entail a change from individual to collective entrepreneurship; 5) place the human potential to learn and develop at the core; 6) put transparency of financial operations central; 7) further international solidarity.
DESIS	Yes	DESIS co-creates, with local, regional and global partners, socially relevant scenarios, solutions and communication programs related to social innovation that are adequate to address the great challenges of contemporary society. Design thinking is used to change the way individuals or communities act to get a result (i.e. to solve a problem or to generate new opportunities).
FabLabs	No	FabLabs provide tools that can empower, educate and possibly liberate people and that support creativity and play, they provide open access to technologies and workshops, encourage open and free knowledge sharing and the taking of responsibility for the care of machines and others.
GEN	No	GEN provides place to reinvent a new culture of cooperation, emotional openness and trust ("a new WE") including new forms of communal organisation and, structures. Through living in intentional communities intimate social relations between people, between male and female, between humans and nature are recreated.
Hacker-spaces	No	Hackerspaces provide a space whereby people can easily access new and traditional tools, learn how to use them informally through self-directed projects, and explore possibilities in a sociable setting. These spaces are relatively free of explicit structures, or norms in relation to technology: people are free to hack and tinker, to learn how things work, freely share knowledge and skills and explore what else can be done with these devices and materials.
Impact Hub	Yes	The Impact Hub hosts co-working spaces for communities of social entrepreneurs with an open attitude and a sharing culture working towards collective social impact. Social innovations by the Impact Hubs include new (working) spaces and practices, new (working) relations and new forms of (network) governance. In addition, (the enterprises of) individual Impact Hub members, including new services and products; and the Impact Hub network explicitly relates to discourses on social innovation..
INFORSE	No	INFORSE promotes and develops renewable energy technologies: the technological aspects thereof are innovative, but also the new ways of organizing and financing renewable energy, establishing alternative energy plans and involve citizens in renewable energy production and in energy savings in their own households.
Living Knowledge	No	Science shops develop cooperation between science and civil society by carrying out scientific research on behalf of citizens and civil society. This access to scientific knowledge strengthens the influence of civil society on societal issues. The research is based on requests from civil society or is involving civil society in the research process.
RIPESS	No	RIPESS is an international network (of networks) for the promotion of a social solidarity economy. It pursues various activities (lobbying, projects, promotion, etc.) of 'putting human beings central in economy-rather than capital'. Activities of RIPESS members have a multi-purpose character, for example socially beneficial services (recycling, local food production), also serving social inclusion at the same time.
Time Banks	Yes	Time Banks introduce new forms of exchange based on relations of trust, mutuality, reciprocity and respect of others which increase self-reliance and reduce dependency on market economy and government welfare systems. The mechanisms for transformative societal change are service exchanges that

		operationalise these alternative values and inculcate them into behaviours, in the process forging new relationships.
Transition Network	No	Transition movement combines an innovative (place based) narrative of change with a novel set of organisational processes to support activists in creating localised experimental space for new kinds of grassroots project to emerge. The local initiatives can be considered as bottom-up social experiments that trigger changes in people's everyday actions, behaviour, and routines.

5.1.1 Comparative discussion:

Explicit reference to the term social innovation
Of the 12 cases, only four relate explicitly to the term social innovation. In fact, one of these examples DESIS, has it as part of its name (Design for Social Innovation and Sustainability). Of the other three cases two cases are focusing on social entrepreneurship, Ashoka and Impact Hub. Especially the development of the latter is closely related to the development of the discourse on social innovation. In other cases, for example the Transition Network, there is more scepticism towards this term. Some actors in RIPESS also distance themselves from the term associating it with particular EU programs and ideologies which are considered alien to their goal of a social solidarity economy. At one of the local Hackerspaces, innovation was on a list of 'forbidden words' publicly displayed.

Providing alternative models
The social innovations that these twelve cases engage in are broad and cover all the dimensions of social innovation mentioned in our definition. Most of the individual social innovations are combined innovations, for example DESIS take a practice and idea (i.e. design thinking) and apply it to other kinds of questions (i.e. societal challenges). At Ashoka a new idea or model (i.e. social entrepreneurship) is taken which is associated with new practices, qualitatively different social relations, possibly new products and new rules to provide a whole model for an alternative economy (cf. Impact Hub). This is similar to other cases, which also provide models for alternative (parts of) society. There are models for an alternative banking system (e.g. Credit Unions), for an alternative energy system (e.g. INFORSE), for an alternative economic system (e.g. RIPESS, Time Banks), for an alternative education and research system (e.g. Living Knowledge) or for alternative societies as a whole (e.g. GEN, Transition Network). It is the combination of especially ideas, practices and social relations which bears the social innovation.

New and alternative social relations
Social innovations are about finding new roles and defining new social relations between societal actors. If we look at these social relations in terms of the relations between four societal sectors, namely market, state, community and third sectors as was done for selecting the cases (see section 3.1.), we can observe that the cases work on different 'frontiers' to renew the quality of social relations. In focusing on the main social relations the cases are redefining, we can distinguish the following:

- **Market – Third Sector - Community:** A larger number of cases redefine the relations between market and community and thereby redefining what the Third Sector stands for.
    - **Redefining value:** While commonly in the 'market' value (i.e. profit) is mainly understood as financial value, cases such as Ashoka and Impact Hub promote social entrepreneurship which puts social impact and values first. Also Credit Unions aim to revalue the relation between market and community by basing these on values such as trust and cooperation. RIPESS and Time Banks have a similar focus.

  - **Technology:** Hackerspaces and Fab Lab redefine the relation between community and market with a specific focus on technology including the craft and knowledge related to practicing it.
  - **Decentralisation:** Related to both arguments above (redefining value and a focus on technology), INFORSE redefines the relation between community and market by promoting new actors (such as energy cooperatives) as opposed to big market actors. By entering the level-playing area these new actors change the relations. By doing so, there is also a component of working on the state-community relations.

- **State/Third Sector (Science) – Community:** More specifically, the relations between university as state owned (while more and more market driven) institutions and community: DESIS and Living Knowledge are both opening up these two sectors to each other, through linking students and scientific knowledge with societal actors and their knowledge needs, thereby again redefining the breadth of the Third Sector.

- **Market – Community – State – Third Sector:** In providing models for how societies at large could function differently, GEN and the Transition Network provide new social relations between all sectors. This is far more prominent for GEN, which by setting up their own governance system in their settlements also opt for re-organising these local societies with different constitutional actors.

Provision of place and space to actors/for social innovators
An interesting point to mention here is that many of the cases are about offering a physical place (e.g. DESIS, Fab Lab, GEN, Impact Hub, Transition Network) and/or more intangible mental/socio-cognitive or digital space (e.g. GEN, Hackerspaces, Living Knowledge, INFORSE, and also Transition Network) in which social innovation can take place, i.e. where new social relations and practices can be experimented with or created. The **provision of these places and/or spaces** constitutes itself a social innovation and is referred to as incubation (e.g. FabLabs, Impact Hub), ecosystem for innovation (e.g. Impact Hub, RIPESS), or lab (e.g. DESIS).

Within these spaces/places, social innovation by others can take place, such as e.g. the Impact Hub co-working spaces where start-ups might be working on innovative solutions. This aspect, the question of **who is actually engaging in these social innovations**, is not covered by the table above. These can be different actors, such as a network organisation, a local initiative or individual actors – each of these might focus on different social innovations – the whole breadth of these has not been covered in the case reports and is therefore not covered here.

5.2 System innovation

With system innovation, we refer to "*change at the level of societal sub-systems, including institutions, social structures and physical infrastructures*" (Avelino et al. 2014: 9). In this section we focus on 1) whether the cases have an explicit focus on system innovation as defined above

(without necessarily referring to the term) and 2) which systems are affected by the social innovations advocated by the cases as reconstructed by us as researchers.

Table 5.2: Cases and their relation to system innovation

	Focus	Systems targeted and possibly affected by the social innovations the case advocates
Ashoka	Yes	- **Economy** in its broadest sense: Firstly, Ashoka introduced an entrepreneurial spirit to the social sector, and then – by bridging society and business – providing social entrepreneurship across the world as an alternative to for-profit-entrepreneurship. - The systems which are in the focus of the work of the Ashoka fellows: Currently Ashoka fellows are nominated if they tackle any of the following: Civic Participation, Economic Development, Education, Environment, Health, Human Rights. Examples from Ashoka Hungary focused on the inclusion of disabled people through a variety of innovative solutions, which have also impacted governmental decision making.
Credit Unions	Yes	- **Financial** system: o Actively seeking to influence banking practices (private sector) and the regulation of it (public sector) o The influence shown through conscious consumer choice, banks adopting ethical standards and the interest of the EU Commission in dialogue with FEBEA.
DESIS	Yes	- **Education** system, especially universities, amplifying the role of designers in contributing to solve social and environmental issues. - **Cities**: strong connection to the cities that the DESIS labs are located in (e.g. Milan) - The systems, which are targeted by the social innovations designed through DESIS (labs), e.g. creation of co-housing concept which is widely spread in Italy by now.
FabLabs	No	- **Cities** (or local communities), in which the FabLabs are located - **Education**, e.g. the lab as education facility, more hands-on, practice-based learning in schools, attitudes to knowledge production, peer2peer learning principles. - Different aspects of the **economy**, e.g. Production (local fulfilment and customization take the place of mass production and global distribution), Consumption (promoting a post-consumerist interest in how things are made), Business (promotion of entrepreneurship and design skills, provide for business incubation) and Investment (crowd-funding and alternative finance). - The systems, which are targeted by the social innovations of some labs, groups and individuals within the network include health system (by designing low cost prosthetics), and energy systems (through creating DIY renewable energy).
GEN	Yes	Ecovillages aim not only at system innovation but at a more encompassing societal transformation. The alternative system structures of ecovillages, based on their search for a culture of cooperation, emotional openness and trust, can act as laboratories for system change. They do so across **all areas of social life** (this holistic aspect being one of their foci) and some of these alternatives are acknowledged and are becoming more mainstream. Exemplary systems include the **economy** (e.g. gift economy, need-based salaries, small-scale economies, low consumption), **housing** (e.g. Eco-housing), **governance** (e.g. communication tools, consensus decision making, collaborative organization, land tenure), **education** (e.g. personal growth, caretaking, new school forms) and **agriculture** (e.g. permaculture, community agriculture).
Hackerspaces	No	[Very diverse and divergent data on this aspect: ranging from pragmatic perspectives on the social change potential of Hackerspaces to Hackerspaces with explicit social change aims.]

		- **Technology**: introducing people to technology and encouraging them to hack, tinker and open up - have agency over – technologies. Changes in social awareness of technology, in ways of thinking about technology, and the right to explore and find out how technologies operate and their consequences. Participants move from identifying with technology as devices designed for them as consumers, to a relationship that is more open, creative and empowered. - The systems, which are targeted by the hackers and the devices they develop. These devices might become disruptively innovative or contribute to technological revolutions.
Impact Hub	Yes	- **Economy** in its broadest sense, including a strong focus on **social entrepreneurship**; alternative practices in **economic exchange** (e.g. financial arrangements with members; bartering; alternative business models), **working environments/systems of employments** (e.g. the Impact Hubs are a strong driver of the development of co-working spaces around the world; working from intrinsic motivation and for ulterior motives in collaborative ways) or **exchanging practices** (e.g. culture of sharing resources such as knowledge, information, competences and experiences between members) - The systems, which are targeted by the members of the Impact Hub and their individual enterprises: In the general Impact Hub discourse, there is a strong ambition to contribute to wider systemic change without substantive, normative or political direction or vision (e.g. 'radically change the world' or the strong emphasis on 'impact'). - The **cities** in which the Impact Hubs are located and where they aim to create 'ecosystems of innovations' as urban innovation systems.
INFORSE	Yes	**Energy system** nationally, in Europe and globally through fostering renewable energy and a fossil free society. At times of their inception in the early 1990s, this was no mainstream position; in the meanwhile, energy plans on different government levels do include renewable energy technologies.
Living Knowledge	Yes	- **University education**, linking students with civil society's concerns and knowledge needs - **Research systems**, linking research to civil society concerns and knowledge needs, introducing and anchoring new research areas and new research methods. - The systems, which are targeted by the actual research performed in the collaboration of civil society and university
RIPESS	Yes	- **Economy** in the broadest sense: RIPESS has been promoting social and solidarity economy for a long time. o Radicalizing the social economy –which also comprises commercialized, not fully solidarity-based and system-confirming alternative economy initiatives such as the large cooperatives. o In Eastern Europe the solidarity/social/cooperative labels are historically 'contaminated' and in Belgium the solidarity-aspect has partly faded away as bottom-up, transformation-oriented initiatives became institutionalized into a social economy sector by a series of system-innovating governments that shifted towards an 'active welfare state' – activating marginalized groups, rather than neglecting them or leaving them passive in state benefits arrangements
Time Banks	Yes	The Time Banks are clearly addressing the professionalised **state-provided welfare system**, which is increasingly overstretched, ineffective and inefficient as well as the **market economy**. All three organisations work with the establishment and see their efforts as developing a healthier and more balanced complement to mainstream arrangements. They see a state failure and market failure – especially with tendency of neglecting vulnerable groups.

Transition Network	Yes	- **Cities** (or local community), in which the transition initiatives are located. - Different local transition initiatives focus on different systems by establishing local projects although there is normally a focus on **food, energy, transport,** and **economy** (e.g. local currencies such as the Totnes Pound). The overall aim is towards localisation and greater resilience. - Whilst Transition has not yet managed to stimulate widespread systemic change – either at a local or higher scale – it has certainly had some impacts (also in form of resistance), although these can be difficult to trace and untangle: o Key ideas about the rationale and process for a Transition have been influential: e.g. publicizing Peak Oil and the possibility of, citizen-led environmental action o Impacts on those who participate in terms of changing their behaviour, values, etc. o Certain local projects definitely have multiple forms of impact, both locally and otherwise

5.2.1 Comparative discussion

Also for this type of change, a distinction between different kind of actors (e.g. networks, initiatives, or individual actors engaged in these initiatives) is helpful when discussing the actual systems targeted and possibly affected by their social innovations. Looking at the level of the case, we can nevertheless gain an idea about which systems are targeted by the social innovations as outlined in section 5.1. General, the focus on **innovating the economy** in its broadest sense is shared by at least eight of the cases. This includes the finance and investment practices, production and consumption patterns, values underlying economic exchanges, and labour market. Other interesting clusters form around the **education (and research) system** (Ashoka, DESIS, Fab Lab, GEN and Living Knowledge); **energy (and housing) system** (GEN, INFORSE, Transition Network); and the relation to actual places and people, i.e. **the cities and local communities** that the cases are located and/or embedded in (DESIS, Fab Lab, Impact Hub, Transition Network). An interesting follow-up question is how these different innovations within these systems do reinforce or compete with one another and in how far the innovation of parts of a system actually keeps larger structures alive (e.g. neoliberalist economy).

Next to the systems that can be delineated as being targeted from the overall social innovation, there are eight cases that have a broad orientation and could potentially influence any social system (see Ashoka, DESIS, Fab Lab, GEN, Hackerspaces, Impact Hub, Living Knowledge, Transition Network). The reasons being that these cases provide a frame (e.g. physical place, equipment, mental space) for actors (e.g. initiatives, members, individuals) to pursue their own activities and practices which might constitute (social) innovations targeting any social system. Two cases are especially broad in terms of the systems they target, GEN and Transition Network with their aim to build up shadow structures they are potentially encompassing all social systems (especially GEN). There is also the possibility of cases consciously leaving the systems to be targeted open (e.g. Impact Hub).

There are only two out of twelve cases which are not explicitly aiming at system innovation, Fab Lab and Hackerspaces. Both cases are also difficult to describe in relation to possible system innovation. For both, case researchers found very diverse and divergent data on this aspect, e.g. empirical research found that there were actors in Hackerspaces that were focusing on having fun and a good time, while other actors had explicit social change aims or saw the potential of the movement for system innovation. Similarly, there was a general (so not shared by everybody) reluctance by active Fab Lab persons to engage with programmes to transform wider structures.

5.3 Game changers

Game changers are "*Macro-developments that are perceived to change the (rules, areas and players in the) 'game' of societal interaction*" (Avelino et al. 2014: 9). As outlined in section 3.1 three game changers were identified and used for the selection of the 12 cases, namely: climate

change, ICT-revolution, and financial crisis, which were considered to be relevant game changing developments for cases of transformative social innovation.

Table 5.3: Cases and their relation to game changes (highlighted in blue those related to the three game changers mentioned in the TRANSIT DOW)

	Game changers per case	Interaction with game changer
Ashoka	- Poverty and marginalization, Corruption, - Ecological degradation - ''world's biggest social, environmental and economic, challenges'	Game changers are framed as motivators for Ashoka.
Credit Unions	- Global financial crisis 2008; - Information and communications technologies, especially online banking - Regulations	One of the local cases, FEBEA was created in reaction to restrictive regulations Through the financial crisis renewed attention for credit cooperatives as an alternative, but also tightening legislation jeopardizing their existence. Development of and access to ICT enabled provision of new services.
DESIS	- Distributed and open production (way by which the production means are increasingly democratized) - Connectivity and collaboration (connections between local actors and the promotion of new local networks in a specific territory) - ICT; Aging; 'Smart Cities'; 'Sharing economy', Financial crisis, climate change, Sustainability	All game changers mentioned led to new or other kinds of projects developed in DESIS labs; e.g. POLIMI DESIS Lab developed cohousing and other social and collaborative housing initiatives in Milan 'pushed' by the game changer 'smart city'. Or NAS DESIGN DESIS promotes new connections among local productive groups, motivated by ideas of collaboration, connectivity and sustainability.
FabLabs	- ICT developments, such as the digital revolution – 3d-printers, sharing of digital designs through the internet - Peer-to-peer learning, open source movement, commons-based peer production Global economic crises, climate change, Poverty	Especially the first game changer is seen as one of the enablers of the movement and as a potential societal game changer which allows workers to regain ownership of means of production. Fab Labs are loosely connected to climate change, in that some labs make it their main aim, and the economic crises through entrepreneurship and innovation.
GEN	- Social alienation (loss of community) - Demographic change (aging) - Economic crisis - Wars (or other outbursts of violence) - Ecological degradation, climate change - Poverty, or any other forms of human or planetary pain and despair - Crisis of the welfare state	The overall statement is that GEN does not react in response to game changers, such as e.g. the crisis. The individual ecovillages themselves seem to be created as resilient alternatives in reaction to game-changing developments as the ones mentioned. Additionally, game-changing developments also confirm ecovillages in their cause (e.g. the economic crisis is seen as a consequence of a mainstream attitude of self-enrichment)
Hacker-spaces	- ICT developments, digital revolution	
Impact Hub	- Internationalisation, globalization and transnationalisation - ICT developments (availability of digital communication) - Economic crisis;	A general sense that existing systems are breaking down and that new ways of working with and within that are needed, for which new movements are emerging based on more bottom-up and decentralised approaches. Some game

	- Poverty - Resource depletion; Climate change	changers are closely connected to the origins of the network, while others provided a mirror for its practices and are an opportunity for re-orientation.
INFORSE	- Climate change - Rise of renewable energy - Fall of Berlin Wall 1989; Earth Summit Rio 1992 - Global economic crisis - (National) government funding and legislation with reference to renewable energy - Structural problems at global scales: CO2 emissions (climate change); risks associated to nuclear power, oil peak; depletion of stocks, environmental impacts of exploitation, transport and waste, price volatility and financial speculation, unequal distribution of risks around production sites, of profit and of climate change impacts. - Structural problems at local scale: env. impacts of the energy chain. - Less room for living of voluntary work - Aging population – aging grassroots	For INFORSE, climate change stand at its origins and constitutes the main motivation of their activities. The two events in 1989 and 1992 were catalysing events for the start of INFORSE. The role of the government as game changer can be both catalytic as well as restraining for the goal of decreasing energy consumption and increasing the production of renewable energy. The economic crisis is seen as a negative game changer reducing public support for renewable energies, which are considered to increase the energy price. The structural problems mentioned as game changers are considered as justifications for the goal of a transition of the energy system. The network also responded to the challenge of an aging population by involving young people through Young Energy.
Living Knowledge	- Government regulations - Rise of New Public Management - Fall of communism and iron curtain and inclusion of Eastern Europe in EU (Romania) - Financial crisis - EU-research funding	Game changers are described as opportunities and as challenges. A changing attitude in the public sector, including universities, led to a different management style in universities, discouraging activity of staff in e.g. science shops related activities and a decline in science shops. Government regulations for embedding universities in the surrounding society can also give impetus for science shop activities.
RIPESS	- Globalization; European unification - Women emancipation/labour participation - 'Active welfare-state' (Belgium) - Fall of iron curtain and economic transition (Romania)	RIPESS was established as globalization of solidarity, directly responding to economic globalization. The European Unification led to harmonised regulatory frameworks for the European local initiatives.
Time Banks	- Welfare state retreat and public spending cuts - Growing debt and decline in the dollar-based GDP - Economic globalization and economic crisis - Structural mass unemployment; De-industrialization - Women emancipation/labour participation - Demographics: Aging, more single-person households - Decrease in neighbourliness; loss of family ties;	Time Banks position themselves as offering alternatives to overstretched state welfare services and market economy driven exchanges in times characterized by the game changing developments mentioned.

Transition Network	- Peak Oil - Climate Change - Global economic crisis (economic insecurity) - Austerity	For the Transition movement, the first three game changers are an explicit part of their own narrative of change. Whilst Transition has always positioned itself as a solution to Climate Change the dominant focus has shifted from Peak Oil to the global economic crisis and related discourses of economic austerity. Positioning Transition as a solution to the economic crisis ties in with the focus on localisation and economic resilience and reinforces their different approach to economic development (ecologically sound, alternative to consumer capitalism).

Table 5.3 gives an overview of the game changers related to the cases, explicitly mentioned by the case actors, inferred by case researchers in the case report, or inferred by the comparative researcher on the basis of the complete case report. Finally they were verified by the case researchers. When compiling the table, it became clear that game changers (even though a definition was given) are interpreted differently across the cases. While some focus on macro developments which are perceived as negative most of the times, others focus on emerging discourses (e.g. smart city, sharing economy) and emerging technologies (e.g. 3D printing) as game changers. In this section, we focus on the definition of game changers as used by TRANSIT, the inferences that had to be made as outlined above mean that there could be instances where there are more or other types of game changers relevant but not mentioned in the table. The right part of the table outlines the kinds of interaction that the cases have with these game changers. The data from the case studies on game changers is quite diverse, and from the table we see that game changers have been interpreted differently across case actors and case researchers.

5.3.1 Comparative discussion

The game changers mentioned are of a broad variety. Most refer to developments that are perceived as negative from the point of view of the case (e.g. increasing poverty, financial crisis, and environmental degradation). There are also some more 'neutral' developments mentioned, such as aging, the European unification or the fall of the Berlin Wall. A minority of these game changers do have a positive connotation, meaning they stand for positive developments from the point of view of the case (e.g. women emancipation, 'distributed and open production' or 'rise of renewable energy'). The mentioned game changers can be clustered as follows:

- **Historical events and political developments** (such as the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, the Earth Summit in Rio 1992, European unification, wars, retreat of the welfare states, austerity measures, government regulations, rise of New Public Management, EU-research funding)
- **Economic developments** (such as increasing poverty, corruption, retreating welfare state and cuts in public spending, unequal distribution of risks and profit, growing debts, structural mass unemployment, de-industrialization, but also distributed and open production). Most important in this cluster is the economic/financial crisis 2008 which is mentioned by nine out of the twelve cases explicitly.
- **Social and cultural developments** (such as globalisation, social alienation, women emancipation, women labour participation, decrease in neighbourliness, loss of family ties, more single person households). An important one is demographic trends such as aging.
- **(Socio-) Ecological developments** (such as environmental or ecological degradation, resource depletion, CO2 developments, peak oil). Most mentioned in this cluster is climate change by seven out of the twelve cases.
- **Technological developments**, with the main example being the rapid development of information and communication technologies (ICT) (including online banking, digital

revolution such as 3D-printing, availability of digital communication). Another example being the rise of renewable energy or the concept of 'smart cities' for the Belgium case of INFORSE.

Most commonly cases refer to at least two of the above mentioned types of game changers. The economic developments have been referred to by next to all cases, and as such are an important game changer. The game changers mentioned usually bear a direct relation with the social innovation and the historical trajectory of the cases themselves. By way of example, it seems interesting that two cases, Transition Network and GEN, which both include an element of building shadow societal structures, have a holistic view on game changing events and include a broad array of economic, social/cultural and ecological developments. The nature of this relation and the actual framing of these game changers is an interesting question for further research.

The three game changers which were used as selection criteria are important game changers in the overall sample of cases: the financial crisis, climate change and the ICT revolution. As these were selection criteria, this might not come as a surprise. More interesting is that our initial matching of the cases and the three game changers did not hold throughout the actual research stage. Table 5.4 gives an overview of the initial matching (colours) and the actual referencing of those game changers in the case study reports (marked by X). This overview shows that one of the cases is not framed in relation to any of the three game changers, namely RIPESS.

Table 5.4: Overview the initially used game changers (colours) and the actual referencing of those in the cases (marked by X)

	Financial crisis	Climate Change	ICT revolution
Ashoka		X (env. degradation)	
Credit Union	X (economic crisis)		X
DESIS	X	X	X
FabLabs	X (economic crisis)	X	X (digital revolution)
GEN	X (economic crisis)	X	
Hackerspaces			X
Impact Hub	X (economic crisis)	X	X
INFORSE	X (economic crisis)	X	(X)
Living Knowledge	X		
RIPESS			
Time Banks	X (economic crisis)		X
Transition Network	X (economic crisis)	X	

What rests to do here is look at the nature of the interaction that the cases have with 'their' game changers: thus how are these game changers framed in the case context. In the following we distinguish a number of different framings in the cases.

- **Game changers as catalysers:** Game changers are framed to have catalysed the start of the network and/or initiative (e.g. Ashoka, Impact Hub, INFORSE, Transition Network, RIPESS, Fab Lab and Credit Union).

- **Game changers as enablers:** Game changers are framed as enabling the development of new practices and services (e.g. Credit Union, the ICT revolution for DESIS, INFORSE, Time Banks, Living Knowledge) or the reflection on or reorientation of activities (e.g. Impact Hub, Transition Network).
- **Game changers as endorsement:** Game changers are framed as endorsing the cases in their efforts. They are used as reference points to confirm the cause and identity of the case throughout time, thus not only at the start (e.g. the reference in the GEN case to the economic crisis), or serve as justification of the goals of the case (e.g. INFORSE). Game changers serve to position the case and its practices as alternatives and solutions (e.g. Ashoka, Credit Union, GEN, Impact Hub, INFORSE, RIPESS, Time Banks, Transition Network). For these cases, a negative framing of a macro-development gives them a reasoning and motive against which to pitch their own narrative of change (cf. section 5.3).
- **Game changers as restraints:** Game changers are framed as restraining the further development of the case (e.g. Living Knowledge, INFORSE, Credit Unions) or the engagement in specific activities (e.g. INFORSE).

While it gives a good overview of different framings, this list has at least two shortcomings which merit further research. One of them refers to the temporal dimension. Through time, cases might change their reference to game changers. While the Transition Town movement explicitly referred to 'Peak Oil' in its starting days, it shifted focus towards the 'economic crisis'. There might also be instances when one specific game changer might change over time from being an enabler to being a restraint. A second shortcoming refers to the fact that a specific game changer in most of the cases is not only one or the other but can work in more than one way. For example while the financial crisis led to renewed attention for credit cooperatives it also led to a tightened legislative framework threatening their existence.

5.4 Narratives of change

In this section we focus on narratives of change, defined as "*discourses on change and innovation, i.e. sets of ideas, concepts, metaphors, and/or story-lines about change and innovation*" (Avelino et al. 2014: 9). Discussing and coding the different cases we found the need to distinguish between the narratives of change of the case and societal narratives of change. The former is the discourse or narrative within the case that outlines how case actors think they and their actions change the world. The latter are narratives on change and innovation that are more broadly shared in society. There is a certain overlap in these discourses, in fact some of the networks can be said to have influenced societal narratives of change through their own narrative.

In this section we first describe narratives of change of the cases themselves, thus sets of ideas, concepts, metaphors, and/or story-lines that relate the case to broader societal change (see text in italic in table 5.5). We then describe societal narratives of change to which the cases relate in

one way or another as explicitly mentioned by the case actors, inferred directly by case researchers in the case report, inferred by the comparative researcher on the basis of the complete case report and finally verified by the case researcher (see keywords for these narratives in table 5.5).

5.4.1 Narratives of change of the cases

As table 5.5 shows, actors in each case have their own narrative of change and either refers to it explicitly or implicitly. These narratives outline how case actors aim to reach their goal, e.g. how they aim to change the system in question. A cautionary remark with regard to this table is that the narratives outlined here are those that are most prominent in the cases, which does not mean that exclude the presence of others or the use of a localised version by a specific local initiative.

There are some interesting observations with regard to these narratives of change:

- **Explicit narratives of change**: Some cases have very explicit narratives of change, which they communicate quite explicitly and which are also part of their social innovation. The Transition Network is one of the major examples, their narrative of change of community based activism is as such not new, but through relating it to a number of 'game changers' such as Peak Oil, climate change and the economic crisis as well as organisational procedures and a positive attitude, it connected to the Zeitgeist and was taken up widely. Similarly, the narratives of change of the Impact Hub and Ashoka feature and co-develop(ed) along the ideas and practices of social entrepreneurship, with a strong focus on the individual entrepreneur. An explicit narrative is for example that of the Time Banking movement, summed up in its mantra of 'no more throwaway people'.
- **No explicit narrative of change**: In other cases case actors do not have a very explicit narrative of change. Examples are Hackerspaces and FabLabs – neither of them represent a prominent narrative of change; rather there are different equally prominent narratives of the relation between the case and broader societal change. It would be interesting to investigate further how far this is related to the relative newness of these initiatives, their underlying values which emphasise individual freedom and unstructured environments, their connectedness to digital innovation and obviously their divided stance with regard to whether or not the case is seen as aiming for system change (cf. section 5.2).
- **Narratives change over time/are revisited**: These narratives change over time – again here the example are Impact Hub and Transition Network, two cases with specific system transformation ambitions and with carefully formulated narratives of change. While there has been a change in the framing of game changers that feature in the narrative of change of Transition Network, the movement is currently explicitly revisiting their narrative and exploring other theories (e.g. resilience theory,

sustainability transitions theory, psychosynthesis). Also the Impact Hub adjusted their framing - from a focus on the impact of individual social entrepreneurs towards a more collective framing.

These narratives of change can be clustered along a number of different axes –it would be interesting to deepen this analysis including the interdependencies amongst the clusters and the relation with the societal narratives of change (cf. section 5.3.2).

There are different **'drivers' for societal change** in these narratives: individuals, communities, governments, and networks of (different) actors.

- In the narratives of cases such as Ashoka and Impact Hub, the main drivers are **individuals** as social entrepreneurs: these are seen to come up with solutions to today's problems in an entrepreneurial way. In GEN and Transition Network, individuals do also play an important role in that the inner transition of every individual (in terms of adopting specific values, activities and lifestyles) is seen as a precondition for societal change. Also for DESIS the focus is on the individual –the professional designer, teacher or student engaging in design practice.
- In Ashoka, Impact Hub, GEN and Transition Network also the **community** plays a driving role in societal change: it is through their concerted action as a community (whether as Ashoka community, Impact Hub community, ecovillage community or local Transition Initiative) that the impact of their actions are increased. For Transition Network and GEN, 'community' is both the system to be changed as well as the means through which the change will take place.
- A third driver we can distinguish are **governments**, especially in the case of INFORSE this actor (on whatever level) is seen as driver for change targeted through lobbying activities.
- Finally, it is **networks of different actors** which drive change. In Living Knowledge the focus is on the collaboration of actors from different backgrounds ('science' and 'civil society' actors), while in RIPESS it is very much the unification of people working towards the common goal of a 'social and solidarity economy'. In the case of RIPESS, this network can then put pressure on governments again.

Societal change can be influenced in different ways according to these narratives. A preliminary clustering of the narratives shows the following:

- Some cases are focusing on **building shadow systems**; this includes GEN, the Transition Network and also Time Banks.
- Rather than 'complete' shadow systems, other cases clearly focus on **providing alternatives to the current systems**, i.e. they engage in social innovation. A specific and clearly institutionalised example is credit unions, which provide an alternative for traditional banks.
- Other narratives of change show a focus on **creating mass or networks**; see RIPESS and partly this also goes for Ashoka and Impact Hub.

- The latter two also show a strong focus on **creating enabling environments** for social entrepreneurs, while DESIS does so for social actors and Living Knowledge for civil society actors.
- Some of the cases are also actively engaged in **influencing societal discourses**, such as Ashoka and the Impact Hub on 'social entrepreneurship', Credit Unions on 'ethical banking', Transition Network on 'community-based activism', RIPESS on the 'social solidarity economy' and INFORSE on a '100% renewable Europe'.
- Transition Network and GEN are also focusing on **fostering personal value change of the individual** (as outlined above).

Table 5.5: Narratives of change

	***Narrative of change* and Societal narratives of the case**
Ashoka	*Social entrepreneurs (1 in 10 million) are changing societal systems along with the idea that 'everyone is a changemaker'. Ashoka outlines five activities for changing systems: 1) redefining interconnections in market systems;; 2) changing the rules that govern our societies (public policy and industry norms); 3) transforming the meaning of private versus citizen sector (business social congruence); 4) fully integrating marginalized populations; 5) increasing the number of people who are social problem-solvers (culture of changemaking and social entrepreneurship).* social entrepreneurship | "everyone a changemaker" | social innovation | hybrid value chain | social investment | economic citizenship | co-creation | upscaling | changemaker skills
Credit Union	*The credit union model seeks to be a real alternative for traditional banks considering credit a human right and motivated by wider goals of social justice and social welfare. There are two narratives within the case, one focusing on 'critical mass' and 'upscaling' and another on 'staying small and true to principles'.* "upscaling" vs. "staying small and true to principles" | anti-capitalism | solidarity | environmental paradigm | "the human right to credit" | equality | feminism | critical economy paradigms | Christian faith-based perspectives
DESIS	*Key narrative of change is how design enables people to do things by themselves. Design is able to empower existing local initiatives or to foster new ones. People's capabilities and their ideas are considered a key resource, and design fosters change by empowering them and by developing solutions with people (in a co-design process). A related narrative of change on how the future could be is referred to as* ***SLOC (Small, Local, Open and Connected) scenario,*** *built at the intersection of three main innovation streams: the green revolution; the spread of networks (incl. distributed, open, peer-to-peer organisations) and the diffuse creativity (i.e. original answers to daily problems conceived and implemented by social actors).* social innovation | design thinking | participatory governance | (new) citizenship in changing democracy | sharing economy | collaborative economy | cosmopolitanism | localism | resilience | network society
Fab Lab	*There are a number of different narratives that vary a lot between different actors. Generally, the narrative goes that through providing access to technologies and workshops and encouraging open and free knowledge sharing, people can be empowered, educated and possibly liberated as well as their creativity and play supported. The focus is on rescaling production and opening it to wider participation.* Maker-Movement | open design | open source | open innovation | peer-to-peer production | digital fabrication | decentralised/ personal/micro manufacturing | non-market and decentralised patterns of production | collaborative working | commons-based peer production | wikinomics | co-production | incubators | crowdsourcing | collaborative economy | entrepreneurship | 'third industrial revolution'
GEN	*Change starts from the individual lifestyle, action and behaviour ('be the change you want to see in the world'). The focus is on building (a network of) resilient communities, which can act as incubator for a new culture and experimentation ground for social innovations*. resilient communities | "being the change you want to see in the world" | cooperative organisation | gift and solidarity economy | personal relationships (rather than bureaucratic structures) as the

	building block of society | culture change | collective ownership-systems | need-based-salary
Hacker-spaces	*There is no one shared narrative of change for Hackerspaces. Two extreme ones are: 1) Hackerspaces are spaces for people to enjoy themselves and to socialise. While they introduce people to technology and encourage them to have agency over technologies, hackerspaces and the maker movement are seen as insufficient for transforming the means of production and initiating a revolution affecting everyone. 2) The Hacking way of thinking and practicing, including free knowledge and sharing of skills, less hierarchical and more networked organisation in relation to technology, can become influential and change the way society is organized.* transforming the means of production and initiating a revolution | sharing principles | Live personal values (fun) | cooperative approaches | hacktivism | anarchism | adhocracy | politics around technology: surveillance/security/control
Impact Hub	*The focus is on social entrepreneurship as a driver of societal change. The Impact Hub is a space which allows for encounters between unlikely allies from which new ideas with positive social impact can emerge. While the focus earlier was on the individual social entrepreneurs and their activities, it has now shifted towards the creation of local ecosystems for innovation, which are enabling environments for social entrepreneurs including more systemic collaboration and collective impact.* social entrepreneurship | (social) innovation | radical change | ecosystems of innovation | (the art of) hosting | incubation | holocracy | liquid democracy | work based on intrinsic motivation, personal values, trusting relations and societal impact' | sharing economy | impact entrepreneurship | bartering | impact economy
INFORSE	*Through reducing energy consumption, a 100% renewable Europe is possible. Local initiatives develop scenarios for how a country can achieve the aim of 100 % renewable energy within 20, 30 or 40 years as a storyline for ways to achieve this change. The network focuses on lobbying on EU and global level. This discourse is supported by the artefacts of developing and demonstrating renewable energy technologies.* 100 % renewable Europe | citizens cooperatives | decentralization of energy production | empowerment of citizens
Living Knowledge	*The basic narrative is that by opening the universities and connecting with civil society, civil society, especially disadvantaged groups will be empowered.* connecting/opening universities | empowerment of civil society | empowerment of disadvantaged groups | science-society relations
RIPESS	*Set up as a network-of-networks, to represent politically and align different, otherwise fragmented, social movements that somehow pursue social, solidarity-based forms of economy, there are various localized narratives of change within RIPESS. These are based on Social Solidarity Economy principles, such as solidarity, social inclusion, sustainability, gender equality, fair trade. The inspiration comes amongst other from the trade union movement, with a bottom line of ''united we stand, divided we fall'.* social (solidarity) economy | collectivism | "united we stand, divided we fall" | Global equality/North-South solidarity
Time Banks	*By strengthening intra community relations based on trust, mutuality, reciprocity and respect of others, time banking operates to reduce the dependency of those who practice it on both the mainstream/market economy and government welfare systems.* alternative and independent social economy | inclusiveness| self-reliant communities | sharing economy |social economy

Transition Network	*The narrative contains different aspects. Firstly, people need to undergo an 'inner' transition away from individualistic consumer identities and behaviour, towards a more co-operative and convivial way of life (cultural change). Secondly, positive community based activism (Transition Initiatives) begins to build parallel structures within communities contributing to local economic and community resilience and the relocalisation of the economy. Thirdly, this grassroots community action enrols others and has potentially significant impact on stimulating change. Innocent activities like community gardening are like a 'gateway drug' which draw people into seemingly innocuous activities before radicalising them*. cultural change | post-capitalist | degrowth | 'wellbeing' and 'economic resilience' | Peak Oil | The Transition | Localisation | Energy Descent Action Plans | Optimism | Grassroots activism

5.4.2 Societal narratives of change

In the TRANSIT description of work, three societal narratives of change were identified, namely: new social economy, low impact living and open source. These were considered to be relevant narratives of change, each connected to a specific game changer (financial crisis, climate change and ICT revolution respectively) for cases of transformative social innovation. These were also used as selection criteria for the 12 cases. As such, all cases were thought of interacting with at least one of the three narratives of change (see section 3.1). It is specifically one narrative of change which plays an overarching role across almost all of the cases, namely the one on a new, social economy, under which we subsumed references to social entrepreneurship, collaborative/social/sharing/gift/impact/social solidarity economy, degrowth, post-capitalism and anti-capitalism as well as commons-based peer production and bartering. As can be seen in Table 5.6, which gives an overview of the initial matching (colours) and the actual referencing of those narratives of change in the case study reports (marked by X), the other two narratives turned out to be less relevant during the case study work.

Table 5.6: Overview the initially defined narratives of change (colours) and their actual referencing in the cases (marked by X)

	New, Social Economy	**Low Impact Living**	**Open Source**
Ashoka	X (social entrepreneurship, economic citizenship)		
Credit Union	X (anti-capitalism, critical economy paradigm)		
DESIS	X (sharing economy, collaborative economy)		
FabLabs	X (entrepreneurship, collaborative economy, commons-based peer production)		X
GEN	X (gift and solidarity economy, collective ownership-systems, need-based-salary)	X (eco-housing, commons)	
Hackerspaces	X (cooperative approaches)		X (hacktivism)
Impact Hub	X (social/impact entrepreneurship, sharing/impact economy, bartering)		
INFORSE		X	
Living Knowledge		X (some projects in local initiatives)	X
RIPESS	X (social, solidarity economy; sharing/social economy)		
Time Banks	X (sharing economy, social economy)		
Transition Network	X (degrowth, post-capitalist)	X	

Interestingly, while in our case selection we equated a specific game changer with a specific narrative of change and also selected the cases in relation to this. This analysis shows that the three game changers and the three narratives of change are not necessarily aligned. One reason is that the

concepts have been interpreted differently by both interviewees and case researchers (see methodological reflections in chapter 7).

On the basis of Table 5.5, which gives an overview of the different societal narratives of change that the cases relate to we can see that other narratives of change are relevant across different cases.

- Enabling environment, in terms of development of new initiatives (e.g. incubation in FabLabs, Impact Hub) and new values and relationships (GEN)
- New Education and Science; i.e. connecting and opening universities to society (e.g. Living Labs, DESIS); co-production and open innovation (FabLabs), open source (FabLabs, Hackerspaces);

5.5 Societal transformation

This section focuses on societal transformation. In the case reports in the section on societal transformation, most researchers have outlined the transformative ambitions of the case (such as the 'revolution' ambition of DESIS). While some then describe the strategies that the case uses and the intended outcomes this should have – telling the narrative of change of the network, others are looking into the interaction of different shades of change for the specific case (historically).

The TRANSIT definition of societal transformation is as follows: "*fundamental and persistent change across society, exceeding sub-systems and including simultaneous changes in multiple dimensions*" (Avelino et al. 2014: 9). Following this definition, none of the networks can be said to have contributed to a societal transformation – while they are all interacting and contributing to a societal transformation in the making. A much more thorough analysis is needed to unravel this dynamic of 'societal transformations in the making' than can be done here.

One possible research avenue would be to focus on the explicit interrelations over time in terms of impacts (both ways) that some of these cases have with their surroundings. Necessary for this kind of analysis is that the case report shows the development of the case over time. One long-term case is the INFORSE case, more specifically of the Danish local manifestation, where the co-evolution of the case, with its narrative of change, its framing of the system and the broader context can nicely be illustrated – adding up to a system innovation (while not a societal transformation). They started out as a grassroots movement opposing the national and European levels and trying to change national energy plans towards 100% renewables, currently there is no opposition anymore as renewable energy has been integrated in all major energy plans.

Another avenue would be to discuss societal transformation in the making and the dynamics of transformative social innovation in terms of recent interactions across the different shades of change. From observations and discussions in this chapter on the different shades of change, we can make a start by sharing the following observations in terms of the interactions of these different shades of changes over time. Another interesting example of 'societal transformations in the making' is the Transition Network, which is spreading widely across the globe and the spread of its narrative of decentralization, localization and community activism which is co-shaped and has even broader repercussions through its interaction with the economic crisis and the retreat of welfare states in the Western countries. More subtle is the influence of alternatives such as those offered by GEN, which pioneers low-tech solutions with regard to agriculture or housing, which through the increasing resource depletion are gaining importance.

A third interesting avenue is to reason from the social innovations and in how far these (new) combinations of (new) social practices and social relations are becoming mainstreamed or not, taken up by other actors or not and how this in turn impacts the case and adds up (or not) to system change. Indications are the examples already mentioned, but also Ashoka and the rise of social entrepreneurship all over the world, or Impact Hubs and the growth in co-working spaces that were witnessed in the cities in question.

The descriptions of most **social innovations** give either an explicit or implicit account of the specific systems which are innovating, although not every case has an explicit system innovation ambition. There is no direct relation to be drawn between social innovation and different game changers, generally one could say the recent economic crisis plays a role for most types of social innovations – these **game changers** are framed as catalysing, enabling, endorsing or restraining the social innovation. The **narratives of change** of the initiative are at the heart of the framing of societal dynamics and the lenses through which the cases look at and interpret different societal phenomena. These are not static; rather we have seen that these are co-evolving with other developments. As part of this avenue, questions such as whether all shades of change and innovation matter, to which network they matter and why are interesting to pursue.

A further possible future research avenue could be to analyse the different futures that the networks and local initiatives aim at creating and how dynamics towards such futures could develop. Such research could include more critical questions that have to do with the initiatives' transformative ambitions, their strategies for achieving these and their tactical and operational approaches to implementation. There are social innovation cases analysed in this report, where one might question, based on their narratives of change, the transformative ambition in terms of questioning underlying structures, cultures and practices of specific systems, and whether these innovations actually could strengthen these systems (e.g. some social entrepreneurship projects might be strengthening market economy).

6 Aspects of empowerment and disempowerment in transformative social innovation

6.1 Introduction

The chapter is based on findings in relation to Research question 3 in the methodological guidelines for case studies: *How were/are actors involved in the network/ initiative (dis)empowered regarding innovation and change? (How) has that changed?*

The rationale behind this chapter is the hypothesis about transformative social innovation: *Individual actors, initiatives and networks are empowered to contribute to societal transformation through different forms of governance, social learning, resourcing, and monitoring (or dis-empowered by not being able to contribute)*

(Dis)empowerment is analysed through analyses of the following four aspects of the networks and the local initiatives:

- **Governance =** processes of governing (regulating, decision-making, steering) by all types of actors (including but not confined to government). Governance is divided into internal governance with focus on internal decision-making and mechanisms of inclusion and exclusion and external governance with focus on the structures and mechanisms which networks and initiatives have been and are influenced by and try to use for obtaining influence
- **Social learning =** processes of learning (acquiring information, knowledge, experience), between individuals and groups at the level of the initiative/network, but also beyond the initiative/network in relation to the broader social context.
- **Resourcing =** the process by which actors acquire the resources they need to attain their goals. Resources can refer to monetary resources, but also to natural resources, artefacts, information or 'human resources' (i.e. man hours).
- **Monitoring and evaluation =** the process that actors use to evaluate the impact/progress of their initiative/network on/in the context of the surrounding societal systems.

6.2 Internal governance in social innovation networks and initiatives

This section focuses on internal governance in networks and initiatives, especially in terms of decision-making structures and procedures for enrolment, inclusion and exclusion and what these seem to imply for empowerment of networks and initiatives.

Table 6.1 Internal governance in networks and initiatives

Case	Internal governance in network	Internal governance in local initiative
Impact Hub	Network provides entrepreneurs with transnational connections in order to empower the single social entrepreneur	Differences in local internal structures Enabling local, individual social entrepreneurs' activities by providing space, possibilities for mutual learning and access to global pool of people NL/AMS + BRAS: practicing 'holocracy' as organisational model with authority and decision-making distributed throughout a number of self-organizing teams
Ashoka	Selecting and supporting social entrepreneurs Programmes for fertilising and upscaling local ideas of entrepreneurs Some central decision-making, but mainly decentralised decision-making	Innovative practices developed locally Local staff members usually also have international tasks
Time Banks	Legal organisational form as cooperative; internal regulation to maintain integrity and coherence with time banking values	UK: charity + registered company + cooperative SP: NGO
Credit Unions	Demand for local ethical evaluation committees; demand for participation of volunteers in decision-making Internal Governance in FEBEA and FIARE based on principles of 1) transparency; 2) equality: "1 person, 1 vote", 3) democratic election of board members.	UK: Find ethical assessment unnecessary UK + SP: Participation of volunteers difficult to obtain; slowing down decision-making Grass-roots organization (territorialized) based on high qualified (and motivated) volunteering work.
RIPESS	No formal rules. Informal allegiance towards broadly defined ideology social and solidarity economy	BELG: Federation of federations ROM: NGO
FabLabs	MIT Fab Charter as requirement for local FabLabs; openness to broad variety of activities Fab Foundation important entity, but not controlling the local FabLabs	NL: Developed own low-budget Fab Lab stressing independence. Mix of collaborative and individual activities ARG: Trustworthy relations enable and allow individual decision-making of the members
Hackerspaces	Informal networking without rules	Informal and non-hierarchical relations challenge to some active in Hacker Spaces UK: Growing size implied need for more formal organisation with board of directors ARG: Local manifest, but no formal hierarchy. Adhocracy. Some members create own businesses
Living Knowledge Network	No formal demands for network members Network is not a legal entity which in some cases have reduced funding possibilities Self-organised formation of EU project consortia based on interest, trust and	DK: Scientific relevance of projects assessed on the basis of university criteria. Social relevance assessed in dialogue with civil society group expressing knowledge need Hierarchical university structures disempowering

	geographical variety Participation in international network empower some new initiatives	Disagreement about the role of civil society as primary target group dissolved Danish science shop network
DESIS network	High level of autonomy to local DESIS Labs Endorsement of new design practices Name and logo as trade mark preventing unknown Labs from using it.	ITA: Empowering to be part of the international DESIS network. Distributed management giving direction but not focus BRAS: Hierarchical university structures govern division of activities
Global Ecovillage Network	Communal self-empowerment as recent main membership criteria Consensus decision-making; rules to balance weight of voices among the diversity of ecovillages Autonomous working groups with own decision-making procedures Has 2013 become legal entity to be able to receive national and international funding and charge membership fees	GER: Communal ownership and decision making. Decisions outsourced to working groups to avoid vetoes blocking activities; are autonomous in their decisions, balancing trust and control by the village plenary and the coordination circle. PT: Multi-level membership structure. Local 'government' and core group
Transition Network	Transition Network Inspirational leadership Policing the boundaries of what 'transition' is; allowing flexibility in how the focus on transition is defined whilst retaining a core set of values and principles. Decision making controlled by Transition Network but efforts to ensure that it is participatory and devolved where possible, Power slowly shifting to national hubs who are taking a greater role in the movement.	In both local initiatives inspirational leadership important, despite the commitment to a collective form of community leadership. Strong place-based notion of community, but support from the whole community difficult UK: Complex governance involving board of trustees, 'core group' and paid staff sustaining initiative. Strategic decision making a little messy but a commitment to participation and devolution of power where practical, Well-being more locally inclusive than environmental concerns HUN: Initiative grew out of its original organisational context where there was a tension between the need for formalised legal structure for fund raising and grassroots organising ethos. Initiative has become a 'doughnut' without a co-ordinating core group.
INFORSE	Governed by group of elected regional (continental) coordinators and bottom-up decision-making No formal demands for members Member organisations the only that can start activities	DK: Has created different organisational forms due to funding possibilities: both voluntary activities and not-for-profit consultancy BELG: Governed by general assembly and board with members and employees

6.2.1 Comparative discussion

The following paragraphs highlight some similarities and differences in internal governance among networks and among local initiatives, their background and their relation to empowerment of networks and local initiatives.

- **The role of centrally developed values and principles.** Some networks are built around centrally developed values and principles, which are seen as important to safeguard locally, although all these networks allow locally based decision-making and development. Examples of networks with formalised values are Ashoka, Impact Hubs, Time Banks, Credit Unions, Transition Network, DESIS Network and FabLabs. Ashoka and Impact Hub need to assess and accept new members. Ashoka formally owns all local initiatives, while The Impact Hub company owns the brand. Credit Unions are due to their much regulated segment very bureaucratic and controlled in their governance. The internal work of building a coherent model of credit unions and ensuring its purity seems to be a key to the success of these initiatives through recognition of them as a coherent and consistent minority.

  Time banking as a values- and principles- based reciprocal service exchange mechanism has centrally-developed values and principles, to which network organisations seek to assure adherence by their members. However, the concept is very adaptable and even slight changes to the values and/or the mechanism can risk losing the integrity of the concept and diverting its impact. In jurisdictions where time banking enjoys protections, such as privileged fiscal status, these may be jeopardised. This creates a challenge for networks.. Whereas in time banking there are alternative formal transnational networks with different approaches to internal governance, hackerspaces does not have a formal network. Within FabLabs some founders are ideologically motivated like in Amersfoort, where the founder became upset about how people were just making key-rings or other unimportant artefacts.

  Most other networks have more or less formalised values, but without request for formal recognition or allegiance towards these values. Examples of such networks are RIPESS, Hackerspaces, Living Knowledge, and INFORSE. Hackerspaces is an extreme with no overall network or structures.

- **Fast growth of networks can give problems.** It seems like networks with fast growth might experience identity problems due to a diversity of new members and might have to renegotiate the values of the network and decide whether to allow diversity among the members. Impact Hub's expansion rate has been rather fast, but they have as a result had to reorganise the international network. FabLabs went almost directly from idea to a network organisation, and the founder has tried to maintain control, but the network has developed beyond their ability to directly influence the movement. The Transition Network has grown fast and have lost some control with the movement. The Transition Network has been exploring how to ensure the movement is democratic and participatory whilst also retaining some kind of control over what a Transition Initiatives. This process has involved establishing stronger links with the national hubs, building their capacity and involving them further in decision making. For example, in 2014 a hubs representative was elected to the TN board. Not all national Transition hubs have entered into agreement with the network and are independent of the network. Those that have entered the network are increasingly shaping the movement and have received a seat on the board.

- **Local empowerment through membership of international network.** In some cases membership of an international network empowers the local initiatives by strengthening the local 'respect' around the initiative. Examples are (some) members of the DESIS network and the Living Knowledge network.

- **External demand for formalised structures.** Demand from external funders has in some cases implied need for more formalised structures like charity (UK Transition Town) and as not-for-profit business (Danish INFORSE member). Such external demands have in some cases created tensions between legal structures and a 'grassroots ethos'.

- **Different mixtures of coordination and self-accountability.** Decision-making structures (or lack hereof) create tensions in some cases and have implied changes towards more formalised mixtures of coordination and self-accountability, like more decentralised decision-making in working groups in organisations with central consensus-based decision-making (local ecovillage), adhocracy (Hackerspaces) and holocracy (Impact Hub).

6.3 External governance of networks and local initiatives

This section focuses on external governance, which is defined as structures and mechanisms which networks and initiatives are influenced by and try to use for obtaining influence in different periods, and the role of external governance in (dis)empowerment of networks and initiatives.

Table 6.2 External governance in networks and initiatives

Case	External governance in relation to network	External governance in relation to local initiative
Impact Hub	Interaction with other organisations about funding opportunities and about development of these organisations' innovative capacity	Close connections to organisations for entrepreneurship NL: Matchmaking between members and business partners. Cooperation with research institutes about impact and feasibility studies
Ashoka	Several programmes and rich variety of relationships with external actors: universities, businesses, global and local civil society organisations, public decision makers	HUN: relationship with a handful of supporting organisations (business consultants, civil society organisations, universities) GER: Spin-off organisations of the local initiative, dense relationship with businesses and business entrepreneurs
Time Banks	EU, Charitable Foundations/Trusts, Local Authorities, Interest Organisations and some agencies of government providing funding for establishment of time banks and inter-/transnational networking among time banking organisations	UK: engagement of the social innovation with regulatory and fiscal authorities to create recognition for time banking as having a special status, giving exemptions (fiscal and welfare 'disregards') for time banks and their members). These provide protections for time banks operating on 'purist' terms, but also potentially constrain innovation. SP: Less strict regulation
Credit Unions	Stricter public regulation of banks due to economic problems in both big and small 'traditional' banks have developed into dis-empowering barriers for the credit unions, despite they have gained increasing interest due to dissolution of 'established' banks societal credibility	UK: Public funding; disagreement about whether it is empowering or deteriorating the ethos of credit unions Weak local cooperation disempowers SP: Conditions of credit unions worsened because of increased demands to banks and a wish to reduce the number of banks
RIPESS	European network seeks to influence policies. Successful in attracting attention of UN organisation	
FabLabs	Different actors in the network interact with different external stakeholders.	NL: Interest from other FabLabs in their grassroots approach. A variety of

	Some focus on Silicon Valley entrepreneurialism; some focus on commons-based peer production and sustainability. Increasingly part of technology and education politics. External pressure for becoming more structured and organised	initiatives have been undertaken with local groups, including a council and a transition initiative. ARG: Fab Lab seen as way of attracting young people to architecture
Hackerspaces	Strong commitment to self-organised spaces means external governance is minimal.	ARG: Some members started selling software, hoping to be able to quit their present jobs Software cooperatives emerged from software movement
Living Knowledge Network	Dialogue with EU Commission officers enabled development of EU funding opportunities for community-based research and civil society organisations as participants in EU projects	DK: Empowerment through credibility from university affiliation ROM: Seen by environmental NGOs as competitors in relation to application to national funds
DESIS network	The external governance is mostly promoted by the local groups. However, the international core of DESIS Network has formal agreements with Social Innovation Exchange (SIX), Sustainable Everyday Project (SEP), Learning Network on Sustainability (LeNS), Partnership for Education and Research about Responsible Living (PERL)and International Association of Universities and Colleges of Design, Art and Media (CUMULUS).	ITA: Difficult to make formal agreements with external actors, due to the disruptive focus of the projects BRAS: Partners not interested in international connections. Formal agreements with external partners; especially from the public sector
Global Ecovillage Network	Consultative status with UN's ECOSOC since 1997	Especially related to the possibilities of buying land and getting permissions for construction of new buildings or for use of buildings. GER: Negotiations about permission for setting up own school SP: Conflict with authorities about 'home schooling' and about expansion of the limit for construction of new houses
Transition Network	Seeks partnerships around specific activities Relations with other sustainability movements and organisations Mainly discursive impacts from spread of the Transition Initiative model	UK: Developed relationships with three levels of local government. As charity need for annual report showing commitment to original charitable goals HUN: Societal dynamics not in favour of local grassroots initiatives
INFORSE	Hearings and lobbying in relation to EU-policy development	DK: The mainstreaming of renewable energy as an important part of the national energy strategy has been empowering. Changes in funding possibilities have had big impact on level and focus of activities. Recent increasing local municipal government interest in energy savings have been empowering BELG: Empowered as part of regional governments' increasing focus on renewable energy planning.

6.3.1 Comparative discussion

The following paragraphs highlight some similarities and differences in external governance among networks and among local initiatives, their background and the relation to (dis)empowerment of networks and local initiatives:

- **Connection between internal and external governance.** Both for credit unions and time banking internal work of building a coherent model and ensuring that internal values and procedures are followed seems to be a key to the success of these initiatives through recognition of them as initiatives.
- **Coherence with public policies.** Coherence with national and regional policies and practices has empowered some local initiatives. This includes FabLabs (technology and education policies with focus on technology and entrepreneurship). However, national and international policies might also disempower, social innovation, like in the case of stricter rules for banks, which also 'hit' the ethical banking initiatives, despite these initiatives get increasing attention from private and institutional investors due to distrust in big, commercial banks. Conflict with local and national governmental regulation is also seen in relation to ecovillages not least in relation to permissions for 'other' schooling models.
- **Co-evolutionary processes.** A more co-evolutionary interaction with national and regional policies has empowered local INFORSE members through increased focus on and mainstreaming of some renewable energy technologies as part of energy and climate policies. The mainstreaming of not least wind turbines through better possibilities for private investment detached from own energy consumption has however at the same time in some regions created reduced local community support. In the case of Time Banking in the UK, special regulatory arrangements have come about through a co-evolutionary interaction of the social innovation with the regulatory authorities. This acknowledges the special status of reciprocal service exchange as being neither conventional employment nor volunteering. The result is that time banking activities are exempt from income tax. Participation in a time bank does not disqualify job seekers from receiving job seeker allowance. These arrangements provide niche protections for time banks, but may also constrain the dynamics of time banking evolution and concept extension.
- **Empowerment through internal and external international networking** Empowerment of networks and local initiatives has in some cases happened through close interaction with EU Commission departments which has led to development of better funding possibilities for both network and local activities (Time Banking and Living Knowledge; in the latter case the interaction has developed funding possibilities for community-based research and for civil society organisations as research partners in EU projects).

  Creation of international networks has in several cases given the possibility of being recognised as dialogue or hearing partner (RIPESS and Global Ecovillage Network in relation to UN entities; INFORSE in relation to hearing of EU energy and environmental policies; Living Knowledge in relation to EU research funding). Actual influence from these activities has been reported in some cases, but is difficult to document in other cases.

6.4 Social learning

The focus of this section is on social learning in networks and local initiatives and the relation to (dis)empowerment of networks and initiatives.

Table 6.3 Social learning in networks and initiatives

Social learning	Social learning in network: who, what and how?	Social learning in local initiative: who, what and how?
Impact Hub	Celebration and sharing of failures	Learning seen as main mechanism of empowering individuals, including incidental learning *Channels for learning:* Physical space: shared working space Virtual space: mainly within local Hub Learning programmes Activities: shared lunch Media: Sharing of stories through website
Ashoka	Internal learning about change and social entrepreneurship both among fellows and staff members Learning from business practices and efficiency Now formalised programmes to teach society about entrepreneurship: public events, competitions, schools, mavens (media)	Learning how to cooperate with businesses Strong media presence HUN: Learning business and communication skills, reporting and fundraising methods Public events on social entrepreneurship
Time Banks	Diffusing software for time banking Common ICT platform and monitoring enable identification of success factors which are important for mutual learning and for dialogue with funders	Social learning about own capacities and about their community among participants in time banking
Credit Unions	Learning in FEBEA: 1)mentoring: network offers technical assistance for the creation of new credit union. 2) FEBECA becomes a common space for learning and innovation: sharing experiences and best practices about ethical and alternative finances, social and solidarity economy.	Volunteers learn about economic and financial issues Professionalization of banking operations through training SP: Learning process in international context. Knowledge sharing reshaped the structure/activity of local initiative. Training provides specific knowledge and skills to volunteers
RIPESS	Sees itself as knowledge hub on social solidarity economy: mainly website as learning channel	BELG: Internal reflections about the development of the area Developed separate organisation for sector support, including website and networks ROM: provide training; distribute materials about social solidarity economic processes
FabLabs	Fab Academy course. Alumni networks.	NL: Sharing of experiences through

	Fab Foundation support for creating new FabLabs Patchy documentation of projects Some focus on tacit knowledge Limited focus on contribution to community development and social development	peer lab course for community and other Fab Las Internal learning mainly about how to keep the Fab Lab running. Empowerment through autodidactic learning. Encouraging the sharing of design the users make ARG: Learning from Fab Academy to run a Fab Lab
Hackerspaces	Self-directed in hands on project – this personal learning is shared with others.	UK/ARG: Space for self-development of skills. Unstructured learning challenge to some members
Living Knowledge Network	Training and mentoring of new science shops by 'old' science shops Toolbox on website Electronic newsletter Network provides local opportunities for learning from global grassroots experiences	DK: Internal: Evaluation of science shop projects; External: science shop projects aim at capacity building among users and students ROM: Providing environmental learning opportunities for school children; enhancing local municipalities' competences.
DESIS network	Promotes new ways of learning: real experimentation; working outside the university classroom Clusters and showcases developed for knowledge exchange	ITA: Learning-by-doing through community-based design BRAS: Learning-by-doing through community-based design. Laboratory as learning space. Limited interaction with network
Global Ecovillage Network	International programme in design of ecovillages takes place in several ecovillages around the world.	Bigger ecovillages run seminar centres and run courses based on own development GER: Internal learning processes about sufficiency., personal growth and intergenerational community building. Space to learn and try new professions in relaxed contexts. Developed own children school. Annual evaluation meeting. POR: Run many schools and campuses. See the village as a future laboratory
Transition Network	Network coordinators see the network as a learning community. Experiential learning Website with blogs and updates Learning among projects	UK: Mainly informal and unstructured learning. Periodic self-evaluation days HUN: Encouraging social learning through networks and physical space
INFORSE	Learning through seminars and workshops. Earlier strong focus on Eastern Europe North-South learning Network as pool of knowledge which one can engage with	DK: Platform for informal learning processes Public enlightenment, local meetings, house visits Websites and newsletters BELG: Appreciated because of its capacity to identify and disseminate 'good practices' Provide learning through participation in working groups

		and projects

6.4.1 Comparative discussion

The following paragraphs highlights similarities and differences in the focus, the organisation and the target groups of learning activities and the relation to empowerment and disempowerment:

- **Formalised learning activities.** Some international networks have formalised learning activities as part of disseminating concepts and empowering local initiatives. In most cases training is done by local resources offering training in other geographical contexts. Examples are ecovillage design curriculum of the Global Ecovillage Network and the establishment of alternative forms of schools in (some) ecovillages. Only a few networks have employed staff as part of the international network. The main example is the Transition Network office in Totnes/UK, due to the role of Totnes as the cradle of the Transition movement.

  Some international networks and also some local initiatives have formalised their dissemination of concepts and experiences by running courses, like Impact Hubs, Ashoka, FabLabs and ecovillages.

  Learning activities in and about eco-villages is described as de-learning habits from ”normal society and education systems” and re-learning “basic knowledge”.

- **Project-based learning activities.** Some training activities are more project-based and rely on external funding. These initiatives may include a combination of training and mentoring of new initiatives. Two examples are based in national funding: Danish funding of INFORSE resource persons transferring experiences and supporting capacity development in Eastern Europe in the 1990s and more recently in developing countries, and Dutch funding of the development of Romanian science shops. An example of EU funding is the training and mentoring of new science shop initiatives in Europe as element in EU projects with Living Knowledge members, and Global Ecovillage Network’s eco-design curriculum.

- **Internal learning activities.** Some internal learning activities is based on formal and more informal exchange of experiences, like the Impact Hub’s attempt to internal, experiential learning by sharing of failures. The development of physical and virtual spaces is an important element of the mutual learning within and among local Impact Hubs.

- **Learning as part of transfer of concepts to other contexts.** The cases include one example of social learning in terms of transfer of concepts, experiences etc. from one of the analysed local initiative to the other local initiative in the case: transfer of the Transition Town approach from Totnes/UK to Wekerle/Hungary. The case discusses also the interactions between the concept and the “new” local Hungarian context. Other examples of transfer of concepts and experiences between specific countries include informal transfer of the science shop concept from the Netherlands to Denmark and later a project-based transfer from the Netherlands to Romania. Also the FabLabs case report show examples of transfer between Spain and Spanish speaking countries in Latin America and later on within Latin America.

- **re-learning basic knowledge** . The initiatives work with de-learning and re-learning (e.g. learning new professions in a ‘relaxed context’ putting less pressure on effective working as in usual working environments and new school forms in ecovillages)

- **Websites, tools and reports as elements in social learning.** An element in several networks' contribution to dissemination and capacity building is development of websites with tools and reports, like Transition Network, RIPESS, Time Banks, Living Knowledge, and INFORSE.

6.5 Resourcing

The section focuses on resourcing: the process by which actors acquire the resources they need to attain their goals. Resources can refer to monetary resources, but also to natural resources, artefacts, information or 'human resources' (i.e. employed staff). The section gives an overview of different types of resources that seems to have played a role in the (dis)empowerment in relation to social innovation. This includes how the resources have been developed (through funding, social learning etc.), where resources are 'situated' (local initiatives, transnational network) and how access is obtained.

Table 6.4 Resourcing in networks and initiatives

Abbreviations for types of resources: Econ: Economic. Hum: Human

Case	Types of resources available in network and from where	Types of resources available in local initiative and from where
Impact Hub	In general struggle to find stable business models. Income through fee from local Hubs and through paid services they provide for local Hubs	Joint model: income from membership fees, renting out rooms and organising events NL/AMS: exchanging rent for services; time based rent NL/RDM: local currency; part-time renting out facilities BRAS: Members with and without access to rooms. Hub School; consulting projects for others about creating co-working spaces; sponsoring for providing ideas for projects in poor neighbourhoods
Ashoka	Econ: funding by organisations, individuals and from businesses Centers of network maybe placed in countries with economy to enable big number of memberships Global consultancy company providing national support globally	Pro bono provision of resources for fellows, offices and projects Executives providing business advice for fellows. Experts volunteers in Globalizer program, cooperation with schools, colleges and universities GER: Big number of individual donors HUN: No individual donors
Time Banks	Time Bank participants provide labour and skills. Reciprocation with like-minded organisations and with partners, such as universities and research groups. Some funding from local authorities, foundations, government agencies, etc.	Key resource: participants and volunteers making the system run Some temporal paid staff based on external funding UK: national network promote time banking. Brokers and software crucial resources. Balance necessary SP: Public institutions fund Health & Family time banking activity
Credit Unions	Tendency towards upscaling towards more solvent credit unions	SP & UK: Resources come from saving and loan activity and from shares

	Hum: a lot of volunteering; might be slowing down upscaling FEBEA activities are -in part- funded by European Investment Fund and the World Bank Tendency is to obtain funds from public institutions and EU projects	bought by members. There is no distribution of benefits between shareholders)
RIPESS	Econ: Funding difficult Hum: Voluntary activities	BELG: Funding from regional government ROM: NGO project activities. No structural funding
FabLabs	Most labs established through external funding: agency or institutional affiliation Business models developing: - Income through payment for use of lab space - Education - Support start of other lab's - Incubator - Network for innovation - Tourist attraction - External consultants	NL: A lot of work from applying for funding. Funding itself creates more work. Changed to autonomous model Fab Lab created from group of friends and networks Users pay to use the Fab Lab or do some work like sharing their learning or do repair work on the building to earn the money back. ARG: Funding for machines. Rent space free in exchange for running courses
Hackerspaces	Membership fees.	ARG: Hum: Enthusiasm and commitment of volunteers Self-financing as source of pride Sponsorship of events creates debates UK: Members plus some income from running events
Living Knowledge Network	Hum: Network as mediator among local experiences. Projects as platform for training and mentoring of new science shops Artefacts: Website as repository with toolbox and reports Econ: Strong dependency on projects. EU funding of projects for 15 years Science shops outside university often have econ difficulties	DK: Econ: Basis funding from university for mediation and evaluation. Access to students and researchers as supervisors of projects ROM: Developed through Dutch foreign aid funding No basic funding. Depending on project funding. Access to students and researchers as supervisors of projects
DESIS network	Artefacts: international credibility from name and logo Hum: local researchers and students Econ: no need Network provides access to local resources in other DESIS Labs	ITA: Provide "partners" with international recognition Econ: public and private funding for projects Hum: University researchers and students
Global Ecovillage Network	Econ: initial funding from Danish business couple through foundation Recently exchange Funded projects with EU and a Germany ministry. platform for non-monetary exchange of services among ecovillages Hum: ecovillage members, social capital	Larger ecovillages run enterprises where members are employed Social: committed relationships and communities GER: Private investment of members; income of seminar house and village businesses; sharing money; gift economy; Hum: all kinds of voluntary neighbourhood support POR: Econ: income from accommodation, books, training, donations, members' external income

Transition Network	Artefacts: Website as repository with. recognisable 'brand'. Access to likeminded activists through network Hum: Unpaid volunteers; project funding provide basic staff	UK: Funding for some paid staff. Help from benefactor who enabled bid-writer who secured funding. Mainly volunteer based organisation Some projects (e,g, REconomy centre) adopted as gift economy model HUN: Hum: Human capacities and networks. Especially young women with kids and 'voluntarily' unemployed Process management capacity important Econ: received funding creates problems with priorities and reporting
INFORSE	Hum: Network as mediator among local experiences. Artefacts: Website; energy vision development guidance material Econ: Strong dependency on projects	DK: Depending on projects for funding. Limited income from energy consultancy activities and from membership fees BELG: Econ: Stable funding from formal cooperation with energy sector and public authorities

6.5.1 Comparative discussion

The following paragraphs highlight similarities and differences across cases of the different types of resources that are necessary (human, economic etc.) and how these resources are developed and made accessible:

- **Networking as resourcing.** As earlier mentioned most of the networks have limited paid staff. The resources in the network are mainly the local resource persons and their activities and experiences, which become mutually accessible resources through websites with links and repositories of reports, tools, etc. Examples of such networks are Impact Hub, Living Knowledge, and INFORSE. Time Banking uses the distributed programming capacities of network members to build and improve time banking software.
- **Applications for external funding.** There are different models of acquiring resources among networks and local initiatives. Some local initiatives and transnational networks spend quite some time applying for funding in order to be able to employ staff and run their activities. Examples are local FabLabs, local DESIS Labs, and the Danish INFORSE member. One initiative seems to avoid external funding due to time consuming application processes and funders' demands for reporting and prefer instead to develop an autonomous model (NL Fab Lab).
- **Exchange of resources.** Other models are 'gift-based' and exchange-based models where resources are exchanged formally or informally. Time Banks are based on exchange of services and (some) ecovillages are based on sharing of economic, human and material resources. FabLabs and Hackerspaces seem to include substantial exchange of artefacts and experiences among the active members of the labs and spaces.
- **Volunteers.** Some initiatives have volunteers as an important resource in their activities. This is especially in relation to local Transition Initiatives and projects and to some extent also in relation to the Danish INFORSE member's local activities, although the role of volunteers has declined

during the recent 10-15 years. Some of the possibilities for employment in these local activities might also include 'willingness' to switch between periods of employment and periods of volunteering and being unemployed.

- **Membership fees and in-kind support.** Several local initiatives have membership fees. The Ashoka network and its German initiative seem to be the activities which are attracting the most financial resources and human resources. This includes high donor membership fees and in-kind contribution when businesses are hosting entrepreneurs and when business managers are mentors and advisers for programmes and specific entrepreneurs' projects.
- **Income from business activity.** Some initiatives generate income by selling products (software from Hacker Spaces) or services (advice from local Impact Hubs and Wallonia INFORSE member's advice to local governments), running courses and hosting different types of events (Impact Hubs, FabLabs, UK Transition Town, and ecovillages).
- **Access to university human resources.** Initiatives which are affiliated at universities like the DESIS Labs and Science Shops have access to resources through the integration of activities into university courses and curricula, which enable a mutual empowerment of civil society, researchers and students.

6.6 Monitoring and evaluation

The focus of this section is on procedures for monitoring and evaluation and the roles in (dis)empowerment of networks and initiatives.

Table 6.5: Monitoring and evaluation in local initiatives and networks

Case	Focus and background of monitoring and evaluation in network	Focus and background of monitoring and evaluation in local initiative
Impact Hub	Monitoring development of the network and the needs of the local Hubs. Global impact survey	NL: Monitoring impact on Hub members and Hub members' impacts on society. Focus on social, economic and ecological impacts. Qualitative dissemination of stories behind impacts Mostly informal monitoring and evaluation
Ashoka	Regular monitoring of fellows and staff in order to reach maximum social impact. Fellows are surveyed in the 5th year of the fellowship. A new complex Social Reporting Standard (SRS) is developed and required to be used by all fellows	GER: SRS was initiated and tested here HUN: 5 of 35 fellows have already prepared SRS report, Local version of the standard is published
Time Banks	Software enables central monitoring of effectiveness and of success factors and is important in dialogues with funders	Case studies of impacts of individual time banks and some thematic studies of impacts on target sectors or groups, such as health, elderly, young, homeless, unemployed.
Credit Unions	Mandatory annual assessment of group of financial ratios FEBEA activity is monitored by an external Ethical Committee Social impact measurement method under development Social impact might become demands to all banks in	UK: Norwich CU use PEARL, the monitoring system provided by the British CU Network ABCUL. Oversight Ethical Committee is a legal requisite.

	EU and could imply societal transformation	
RIPESS	Monitoring the area of social solidarity economy Monitor the position in relation to other social innovation initiatives	BELG: Monitoring of social economy enterprises to justify pubic subsidies ROM: Monitoring the area of social solidarity economy
FabLabs	Very little formal or systematic monitoring and evaluation.	Some projects are documented in order to enable sharing and replication and adaptation in other places
Hackerspaces	Very little formal or systematic monitoring and evaluation.	Some projects are documented in order to enable sharing and replication and adaptation in other places
Living Knowledge Network	EU-funded projects with documentation of processes and societal impact from science shop projects. Some development of evaluation tools for societal impacts Demand for evaluation of EU-funded projects	DK: Scientific evaluation of science shop projects which are part of education Unsystematic follow-up with civil society groups about long-term impacts
DESIS network	There is no formal monitoring and evaluation within DESIS Network. Some qualitative monitoring, e.g. of the level of proposals for cooperation to the network	Lack of formal monitoring and evaluation might disempower the local initiatives in relation to attracting external funding
Global Ecovillage Network	Some monitoring and evaluation, but not systematic	Evaluation often as part of research projects using ecovillages as case in relation to eco-technologies and permaculture GER: Annual internal evaluation meeting; Internal-process including reflexions is seen as a constant evaluation process POR: Internal study groups, especially during autumn and winter
Transition Network	Feedback from participants at courses Monitoring website usage Carrying out some surveys Feel need to gather and show evidence of impact of work. Therefore cooperation with university project about a monitoring and evaluation framework for low-carbon community groups	UK: Financial reporting mandatory due to legal status as charity Demands for monitoring of impacts in relation to specific project funding Informal processes of self-evaluation as element of learning. Planning further work on measuring impact. HUN: Internal reflections at core group meetings Monitoring and evaluation as part of Norwegian grant
INFORSE	No formal or systematic monitoring and evaluation.	DK: Increasing focus on evaluation of local project impacts due to funders' requests for projects in developing countries

6.6.1 Comparative discussion

The following paragraphs highlight similarities and differences of the roles monitoring and evaluation are playing in networks and in local initiatives with respect to (dis)empowerment.

Few examples of systematic monitoring of performance. There are some examples of systematic procedures for monitoring performance, impacts, etc. among the networks and local initiatives. The

identified practices are to some extent based on **external demands** from funders (Danish INFORSE member's activities in developing countries) or demand from authorities (Credit Unions' reporting as banks, UK Transition Network's obligation for reporting due to its status as charity; Science Shop's use of university courses and evaluation of students as an important resource).

Other examples are based on interest in documenting results, either aiming at 'internal' further development of the activities or (and) **aiming at increasing interest among policy makers, funders, and other potential partners**. Examples are Ashoka's new Social Reporting Standard, Time Banks' use of software to document impact and effectiveness in order to attract funders and partners, Impact Hub's Global Impact Survey, and Living Knowledge Network's development of tools for assessing societal impact, including economic value of the advice given as part of science shop projects based on curriculum-based cooperation with civil society in order to promote this type of research.

Monitoring of the social area of interest. RIPESS is mentoring the overall development of the area of social solidarity economy, which they are part of themselves, in order to develop their arguments and activities in relation to policy makers.

7 Methodological reflections from case studies

7.1 Introduction

Having presented four clusters of comparative observations (Ch. 4-6), this chapter returns to the methodological choices underlying these observations one by one in order to draw lessons for future research activities in TRANSIT. The reasons for such evaluative revisiting are therefore discussed right up front, in the subsection pertaining to the iterative set-up (7.1). Next, reflective observations and questions are presented on the proto-theorization through sensitizing concepts (7.2), the embedded-case approach (7.3), the case demarcations (7.4), the reflective approach (7.5), and the comparative set-up (7.6). The latter will also provide reflections on Chapter 3. These reflections on method choices draw on many sources: First, the teams of case researchers themselves have provided accounts of their research process and choices. Second, the experiences with comparative analysis provide reflective insights. Third, the very fact that a first version of research design has been implemented, the results of which are presented in chapters 4-6, offers the opportunity for more general reflections on the research design.

7.2 Iterative research and the importance of methodological reflection

The quality of case research, like any other research, can be judged by some quite well-established standards such as construct validity, internal validity, external validity and reliability. In this regard Yin (2003, 40-41) instructively specifies various measures to take in particular phases of the research. He also stresses that these 'validity tactics' better be maintained throughout the research process, however. Moreover, he reminds that case research tends to involve surprises and revelations that ask for adaptations to the original research design (ibid, 62). If such adaptations are not made or only with a lack of understanding, the case research can easily be dismissed for lack of rigour - as if it were a mere product of initial preconceptions (ibid, 58).

Considering how TRANSIT is dealing with this adjustment-to-revelation, it appears that it is both well-equipped and vulnerable. Regarding the first, the iterative research design (section 2.1) is then an essential strength. This **general choice for iteration has pre-programmed evaluative moments between phases of research**, and between parts of the empirical basis. The second batch of case studies and the larger-N survey can then be informed by reflections on this first-batch research phase: *Does the (set of) case reports provide the empirical base aimed for? Does it yield a sufficient process understanding, in order to meet empowerment/practice orientation objectives? Have the aims themselves undergone changes/specifications? And to what extent is the first batch of case-reports a 'pilot-batch' for the second?*

Regarding the vulnerability, it can be considered that the overall iterative set-up does in itself not guarantee adaptation during separate phases, i.e. during the process of first or second batch case research. Even when case researchers are guided by a case protocol, by discussions between case partners and by work package coordinators, the circumstance remains that cases are done by different researchers. Considerable harmonization seems needed, but does make it difficult to adapt to Yin's 'revelations'. **It therefore seems advisable to reconsider the measures taken for organized adaptiveness.** The latter could for example be served by more specific consultation/coordination

between case partners on their method choices and the revelations encountered. Formally, choices made during the process should have been recorded in a research diary, but these records have not been discussed. Another way of ensuring this organized adaptation could be the inclusion of a more elaborate/systematized method section in the case report format (alongside and beyond quantification of research techniques and specification of relations to researched networks; for example more attention to demarcation choices).

7.3 Proto-theorization, sensitizing concepts and interpretation

As discussed in section 2.2, an important choice has been to do the first batch of case studies on the basis of modest guidance - balancing uniformity and sensitivity to particular features of cases. Of course, different methodological traditions may either criticize the lack of clear propositions and theoretical guidance or rather the straightjacket of categorizations contained in the methodological guidelines. Still, there are evaluative questions that can and need be answered, for the sake of reliable and comparable findings:

Did the 'sensitizing concepts' sensitize all researchers in similar ways?

Which analytical categories seemed to invite different interpretations or confusion? Which categories seem to be overlapping? (Are researchers managing to keep the 'shades of change' apart? Are they interpreting 'empowerment' alike, and managing to handle its four cross-cutting subcategories?)

Which categories proved difficult for researchers to report about – or is strikingly absent in many reports?

In this respect the overall picture seems to be that the researchers were converging onto roughly the same observables as implied by the cognitive map. The process of comparative analysis for this report, with its challenging extraction and condensation of case findings into comparative overviews, did not require excessive force to make the cases fit the tables. Still, a basic difficulty with the use of sensitizing concepts, such as 'game-changers' and 'system innovation', seems to be that they have been deployed in divergent ways because the concepts are not easy to define in very specific terms. As suggested in the methodological guidelines as a possibility, if appropriate, some researchers have asked respondents explicitly what these concepts would refer to in relation to their initiative/network, whilst other researchers have rather interpreted/reconstructed what 'game-changers' seemed relevant to the individuals and networks under study (Cf. Ch.5, where it proved difficult to indicate game-changers in some cases as respondents did not come up with examples of relevance to them). Even when this does not seem to have led to greatly diverging measurements**, the guidelines for case researchers could be more specified for the use of the sensitizing concepts.**

Furthermore, there are some specific apparent interpretation and measurement challenges to consider. First, chapter 6 brings out clearly that the key notion of 'empowerment' has been interpreted in quite different ways. Surely the researched individuals and networks bring forward different understandings of empowerment – if only because the Anglophone term does not always translate easily - but also the researchers themselves display some relevant divergences in their understandings of the term. Some case reports mainly describe the empowerment of individuals for example; others describe empowerment of groups of individuals, or of networks. Researchers' different interpretations

of the term really matter here: the very issue of whose empowerment matters is something to be recorded precisely about the researched actors. For example, a key theme in the RIPESS/Belgium case analysis was actors' difficulty to arrive at a socially innovative federation-of-federations that empowered its constituents alike. Likewise, some networks even explicitly resist the notion of individual empowerment for its connotations with dis-embedded individuals that are disengaging from the wider community. So whatever the theoretical and normative answers to the interpretation of 'empowerment', there is also this issue of measurement and reliable data gathering. A methodological lesson to draw seems to be that **the choice to work with embedded units of analysis requires reconsideration of empowerment as key analytical category.** Whether the case research protocol will narrow down the definition, distinguish different dimensions/levels or keep the analytical open to the researcher's interpretation, at least it should be ensured that researchers' interpretations are reliable, and can be meaningfully compared.

Second, another exception to overall convergent interpretations is the concept of **'narrative of change'**. Defined as "*discourses on change and innovation, i.e. sets of ideas, concepts, metaphors, and/or story-lines about change and innovation",* it was interpreted differently by researchers. Some reported on societal narratives of change with which the networks/initiatives engage or co-develop with. Others rather considered the Narrative of Change to be the narrative through which the initiative itself outlines its mechanisms of change. As both aspects of the SI networks are important to TSI, **the next version of case research guidelines could explicitly distinguish the two – or find other ways to avoid the apparent blurring of analytical categories.**

Third, there seems to be a difficulty with reporting on the environment/context of networks. This aspect of the embedded case studies seems to be dispersed over several analytical categories as specified in the case report format. Many of the reports focused on the network/initiative itself – looking inward, while not taking account of the environment in which it is situated. Parts of this environment have been accounted for under 'governance', other parts under 'system innovation', or under the 'development' of the initiative**. The case report template could provide more guidance on this matter. In fact, there seems to be a more general difficulty to account for the transversal, pervasive themes in the quite strictly categorizing case reports.** Another example, next to the issue of context/environment, is the difficulty to report on dis/empowerment that is not fitting in any of the categories, but analysed through four cross-cutting themes.

Fourth, there seems to be a more general divergence in understanding about the nature of the left side of the heuristic framework (the cognitive map as displayed in section 2.3) with the different shades of change (the concepts of social innovation, system innovation, etc.). While some researchers seem to have taken these concepts to refer to discursive phenomena and framings, others understood these to refer mainly to actual changes and impacts. **The apparent differences in researchers' ideas about the relevance of actors' perceptions of transformation on the one hand, and objectifying accounts of it on the other hand, clearly merit attention.** Moreover, as this is a matter of fundamental theoretical assumptions, it seems important to verify whether these differences of perspective are introduced by the proto-theoretical assumptions that guided the empirical investigations.

7.4 The embedded- case approach

A well-known way to go astray in case research is by not knowing what to look for and ending up with dispersed data sets that do not allow for answers on the research questions. The deliberate choices for

the embedded cases of evolving networks (2.3) are in that sense both promising and risky: On the one hand it is sensitive to the layered, dynamic nature of TSI processes, and responsive to the circumstance that the originating sources of TSI are as yet unknown. On the other hand, Yin (2003,52) points out that embedded case designs face the risk of losing sight of the case as a whole. This risk seems particularly serious for the TRANSIT cases. It is therefore worthwhile considering to what extent one has ended up with case studies that make it impossible to see the forest for the trees.

Did the tripartite study of two local initiatives and one transnational network add up into coherent studies on TSI?

Are they indeed the relevant levels and units of analysis, or have other units/levels been noted to be relevant? Did the nested set-ups generate sufficiently dynamic accounts of the networks?

Regarding the first question, it can be read in chapter 4 how the TRANSIT first batch of cases contains quite different network structures. Some networks are so 'thin' as structures that 'local initiatives' are hardly aware of the supposed network allies. The Hackerspaces have no representative network organisation for example, whilst others have very strong ties like Ashoka, actually owning all local offices. This variety is in a way in line with initial theoretical expectations **– still it is a question whether next case studies should also contain such mixture of solid and elusive/non-existent networking.**

Regarding the second question, there is at least one nuance of the distinguished units/ levels of analysis that has been noted to be relevant in the case reports. Several case reports, out of pressing demarcation issues, have moved beyond the designated units of initiatives and networks, and have reported on the broader 'area' or 'cluster' of similar initiatives around these units. The analysis of the Time banks flags explicitly how one of the local initiatives is actually not in conformance with the modus operandi that most Time banks prescribe – it is not a Time bank, but something else (close to an alternative currency scheme). Leaving the issue of who is the proper Time bank 'gatekeeper' aside, this does indicate how the case constitutes not so much the Time Banks network and its local branches (units as neatly branched as McDonalds), but rather a broader area of 'timebanking' around these units and including other initiatives. Similarly, the Hackerspaces case study proved difficult to arrange along the designated main units/levels of analysis. It never really congregated into a network, and is a rather motley collection of very loosely or completely disconnected local initiatives with individual aims, goals, and modes of operation. They do not use the same names either - Hackerspaces, Hacklabs, or completely alternative names like Build Brighton are in use. Interviewees associate the names with different groups, motives, and development trajectories. These examples beg questions if the case study is studying one or several initiatives and networks, or whether the case study is rather about a 'cluster' or 'area' around certain initiatives and networks. The relevance of such SI 'areas' or 'clusters', is also reported in the RIPESS and the Credit Unions cases, whilst the Transition Network analysis takes the Transition *movement* as overall unit of analysis and then distinguishes between different types of networking (organisations) and the local initiatives.

Arguably, all of this merely reinstates that TRANSIT studies evolving, dynamic and porous network structures (Cf. 2.4). Which initiatives/networks/practices are in or out tends to be not so clear and is

often even contested and mediated through membership rules. Still, TRANSIT seeks to research the complex reality of evolving networks through systematic comparison of reasonably comparable cases. **A basic methodological lesson seems to be that the TRANSIT cases are not constituted/defined in precisely the same way[6].** Beyond that lesson, TSI theorizing could consider this apparent relevance of other units of analysis within the embedded-unit framework used for the first-batch cases.

7.5 Case demarcations

As already touched upon in the previous section, TRANSIT has opted for quite flexible and open-ended case demarcations. This is very much in line with its theoretical assumptions about transformations, evolving networks and innovation journeys (see 2.1-2.2), and can still be defended through the use of various 'mobile' methods that 'progressively contextualize' (2.4). Still, it needs to be remembered that some practical advantages of rigorous demarcation are foregone, such as an efficient balance between research efforts on the one hand and relevant empirical base on the other. Moreover, the cases form part of a fairly large-N comparative set-up, which increases the premium on homogenous cases, despite the phenomena is heterogenous. This brings up several evaluative questions:

Have researchers converged in their case demarcations (through entities, time and space)?

Does the first batch mainly count contemporary innovation-in-the-making for example, or do we also have rather historical cases?

Regarding the first question, **some homogeneity between cases has been achieved.** As also brought by Chapters 4-6, there seems to be an overall convergence in the case demarcations. The integrated timeline (Ch. 4) provides an overview of time demarcations, for example, and of evolving networks described over largely coinciding time spans (the last two decades up until now).

Still, there are divergent choices to be observed and to be considered. Regarding the time dimension for example, there is considerable variance in the cases in their leaning towards either contemporary innovation-in-the-making or historical cases. Moreover, there are different interpretations of what counts as the history of a 'case'. Some researchers trace the actual activities of a certain initiative (rather than their name or label) far back in time (e.g. Hackerspaces), where other researchers would not treat this as origins of the current initiative/network. **Methodological considerations are then whether there should be further specifications of periods to be covered, and of ways to describe development. Beyond the methodological considerations, there are theoretical questions on how the origins of initiatives and networks should be understood.**

As already mentioned in section 7.4, there are also some notable divergences regarding the entities covered. At least some of the case studies deviated from or improvised around the designated (tri-partite) nested setups to generate sufficiently dynamic accounts of their network. Meanwhile, others

[6] An important definition issue brought forward by Paul Weaver in the Time Banks case study.

stuck to it, even if somewhat at the expense of more dynamic accounts of network evolution. The following general demarcation issues came up during case research: The networks chosen are sometimes multi-layered structures, some encompassing as much as 5 levels like international, continental, national, regional and down to the local. They also may constitute networks-of-networks, making them difficult to set apart/delineate. Some initiatives are involved with multiple, sometimes even competing overarching networks as parallel structures. SI movements might lack a network structure altogether, or not one of 'local initiatives' and 'transnational networks'. **Accordingly, researchers end up with comparable, but also quite differently shaped nested cases. Methodologically, it can then be considered how the observed variations in case structure, the coverage of and relations between entities, could inform an updated report format for the structure of SI networks studied.**

Finally, all these demarcation issues come from the general consideration that there should be a balance between flexibility and homogeneity. How a more favourable (in the light of TRANSIT research aims, see 2.1-2.2) balance may be struck, depends of course on the many pros and cons of flexible, 'progressive' demarcation versus rigor and conformity to guidelines. This generates a further group of questions about TRANSIT researchers' choices and improvisations underway:

What demarcation issues came up during researchers' investigations, and what choices and improvisations were made to arrive at adequate, 'manageable' demarcations?
What have been notable choices in 'recursive' demarcation of local initiatives and global networks?
And what have been the bonuses of flexible demarcations (such as intersections/intertwinements with other cases, insights on more than two local initiatives)?

Apart from the fairly evident problems that arise from incongruent and less comparable cases, especially the bonuses of flexible demarcation will be good to record. After all, the research design can be read as a bet on a method of investigation that is somehow responsive to the complex nature of its (embedded) research objects. Regarding the nestedness of our cases it is interesting to see, for example, how they also display mutual overlaps, linkages or 'intersections' (Cf. Pel 2014). Impact Hubs seem to have close connections with Ashoka and FabLabs, for example, at least in specific places/cities. Furthermore, it is striking how Credit Unions develop linkages with many adjacent SI initiatives that similarly pursue new or alternative economies, such as Time banks. Finally, it can be seen how they even share a 'local initiative' with RIPESS (an alternative financer in Belgium). In its turn, the latter network-of-networks is striking for the ways in which it precisely seeks to unite various 'local initiatives' and 'transnational networks' under its banner of social solidarity economy. **A methodological consideration is then that these intertwinements between SI cases should be ruled out if one seeks independent cases – yet observation of those also may have bonuses in terms of network evolution insights.**

7.6 The reflective approach: Proximity, distance and access

TRANSIT starts from a commitment to reflexive research. The practical implication of the chosen approach is that case researchers are to take a stance of 'critical friend' towards the individuals and organisations that are researched. Moreover, it is specified that researchers strive for co-produced knowledge, inviting researched individuals and organizations to bring in their ideas for research. In

several ways these commitments have materialized in the case protocol (2.5). Meanwhile, the interactions between the different research teams and the different individuals and organisations can only be anticipated to a certain extent. It is therefore worthwhile to consider what the measures towards reflexive research have resulted in:

What has been the prevalent research techniques (document review, interviews, observations, dialogues) deployed, and what seem to be the implications of these choices in terms of proximity and distance?

What balance between 'insider' and 'outsider' perspectives can be found, and what seem to be the implications of this in terms of 'critical friend' positioning?

What have been the suggestions for research formulated by the researched individuals and networks, and what could be the implications of that? What other issues and challenges came up during TRANSIT researchers' investigations?

First, regarding the mix of observation techniques, it can be seen that most cases did manage to deploy at least some of each type of observation. There have been no case studies that extremely leaned towards either the historical-distanced analysis through document review, or alternatively the ethnographic, going-native kind of case study in which direct observation and dialogues are the dominant or only research techniques.

Second, within the broad convergence towards mixed observation techniques and balance between proximity and distance, there is a quite broad variety in the level of direct observation, though. Whereas Credit Unions, GEN, and Impact Hubs are case studies strongly informed by direct observation, there are also cases (RIPESS for example) that strongly rely on document analysis and interviews. It seems that researchers have been adapting to circumstances: Participant observation often proved difficult to arrange at the transnational network level, for example, whilst historical data were not always easily available at the level of 'local initiatives'. **A general recommendation is then to consider whether a greater weight should be accorded to historical-literature based or rather contemporary direct observation modes of investigation – taking into account theoretical interests and the signalled issue of access to data.**

Third, it can be noted that – even when researchers have kept to the 'critical friend' positioning - more 'insiders' than 'outsiders' have been interviewed This focus on the SI initiatives and networks, generally somewhat neglecting the surrounding actors, can be considered for the 'innovation bias' (Cf. Pollitt 2015 reviewing the SI research in the LIPSE project) it may introduce. A general recommendation for case research is of course that outsiders should be included, to cast the key protagonists' accounts in a different light. Still, the main focus on the insiders is in line with the case research guidelines, and with the general research interest in SI initiators' positioning and empowerment in transformation processes. A full balance between internal and external perspectives has not been the objective. **Still, even when the selection of respondents may not be in need of serious reconsideration, it could be considered whether inclusion of outsider perspectives (and contestation) could be more emphatically invited in the case research protocol.**

Fourth, it can be observed that the striving for a dialogical, co-productive relationship with the networks under study has yielded abundant responses[7]**.** It was the objective of research question 4 to ensure this co-productive relationship. As examples, Impact Hubs and GEN cases have formulated particularly extensive suggestions for research and other cases have also developed suggestions for further research (a table with the suggestions for research themes can be seen in Annex 2). Besides co-development of research themes other ways of TRANSIT co-production have taken place: The Credit Unions brought forward how TRANSIT could be 'credible transmitters of alternatives', for example, indicating how TRANSIT could empower networks by providing exposure, and/or scientific stamp of approval. The Impact Hub initiatives would like more knowledge about how to obtain better networking and how to obtain systemic impact, including how to scale up local communities. By contrast, the Hackerspaces were decidedly less happy to be communicated about, to be charted, to be exposed or approved. Even without full analysis of the coproduction proposals brought forward, it then seems recommendable to further think through how to shape co-production, and to draw the implications for the further TRANSIT research.

7.7 Comparative approach

The previous sections have brought up several dimensions along which it can be evaluated whether this 'first batch' was sufficiently harmonized. Has the case protocol sufficiently ensured the possibilities for replication? As discussed in 2.6 however, the comparative approach is only partly motivated by the pursuit of solidification and consolidation – it is also about learning across contexts and about gaining a sense of evolutionary pathways and generative mechanisms. These rationales for comparison are at least one thing to reflect upon. Beyond that general question, various other questions come up on the many method choices involved with comparative analysis (cf. Ch. 3). The answers to those questons are to be provided in subsequent research steps (especially within the work package WP5 on TRANSIT meta-analysis of cases).

Which of these kinds of comparisons (solidification, learning across contexts, identification of generative mechanisms/pathways) is prevailing in our chapters 4-6, considering the types of observations generated?

What kinds of comparisons do we see in the synthesis chapters of case reports? - to what extent has such contextual data become available?

Does the set of cases indeed display the relations with game changers, the narratives of change, and the spread around the 'Third sector'?

What can be learnt from the comparative process that led to the observations in Chapters 4-6? Did the case report formats serve the intended homogenization of data/analyses? What balance between simplification and overview was achieved through the extraction and condensation processes?

[7] Apart from the co-production taking place through and *during* the case research process, there also considerable activities of exchange and dissemination that similarly contribute to co-production – such as the TRANSIT workshops with DESIS, and the TRANSIT engagement workshops.

On the basis of these first experiences with TRANSIT comparison, already some general observations can be made to inform further (comparative) empirical analysis.

First, it has become further clear how TRANSIT comparison is mainly oriented towards the (tentative) identification of generative mechanisms, and development of a systematized understanding of complex pathways and dynamic journeys (see section 2.6). The other motives for comparison, solidification and learning across contexts, have been more difficult in this comparison. The comparative observations in Chapters 4-6 are clearly very explorative in nature, reflecting a certain search for the very kind of comparative assertions that seems adequate to the case analyses. A general implication seems to be that the rationale for comparison, and the comparative methodology, needs to be further elaborated. A particular important topic for the overall research design will also be the possibility of a phased comparison – the solidification and learning-across contexts types of comparison arguably become *feasible at a later stage in iteration – when the empirical base is greater, the theory has matured, and issues of data homogeneity have been further addressed.*

Second, it can be observed that the learning-across-contexts, the comparison between different welfare system contexts (see 2.6 and TRANSIT (2013)), has yet to be operationalized. The case research protocol strongly steers towards such comparison through the very structure of the case report format, to be sure. Still, it has proven that the synthesis chapters of case reports only partly deliver such learning across contexts, and at least not in a systematic way in which the relevant contextual factors are exhaustively spelled out. A notable attempt towards such systematic analysis of context is Cipolla et al. (2015), comparing local initiatives in Brazil based on two different cases. **This only underlines that the theorizing of 'context' is in need of elaboration, however.** It is not obvious which categories and units are relevant. (While Brazil may be possible to analyze as a singular context, for example, the local initiatives in Belgium bring out how the very much smaller country of Belgium is (culturally, administratively) difficult to treat in that way. Another categorization issue is the apparent relevance of regions, rather than nations).

Third, it can be observed that the case selection has been largely successful. That is to say, the case analyses prove pertinent to TSI, largely bring out the intended spread over institutional sectors, and they do bring out a certain spread over and association with different narratives of change and game-changers. That said, it also has become clear that the ex ante scheme of game-changers and transformative discourses is challenged by empirical findings. Unsurprisingly, there is no neat and immediate relationship between these game-changers and discourses. **General recommendations for further case selection are therefore that no great changes of method seem needed, yet that the selection of a certain SI area or subset merits a clarified selection criterion compared to the game-changer /transformative discourse one.**

Fourth, it can be observed that the case protocol does achieve a considerable degree of data homogenization - yet considerable divergences remain in the case reports. Several considerations have already been formulated about specific topics (interpretations of sensitizing concepts, demarcations, mix of research techniques, etc.). **A general recommendation however, is also to take the achieved balance between particularity and homogeneity as a given, and as a starting point for further methodological choices.**

Fifth, it can be seen how the process of extraction, condensation and identification has proven very challenging. Regarding extraction, it did help considerably to have the strongly structured set-up of case reports – this structure could to a large degree be transferred directly to Chapters 4-6. Still, the work with (and the very need for) the extraction/summary tables did signal a gap between case

reports and comparative analysis, at least in terms of processing the data. Even when the general approach to condensation was given – iteration between emergent findings and the data, see 2.1 – it proved challenging to make the very first steps in this iteration (see also 5.1 for an account of these steps.) **A general recommendation is then to take into account these extraction and condensation issues when establishing second batch case study guidelines. Obviously, these issues will be particularly important for the meta-analysis – involving sets of data significantly well larger than the approx. 1000 pages of the batch 1 case reports.**

Having qualified comparative observations in these methodological reflections, the next and final chapter wraps up the empirical findings and develop propositions for the further TSI research and TSI theory development.

8 Synthesis of findings: How does social innovation interact with other forms of change, and how are actors (dis)empowered therein?

8.1 Introduction

This chapter synthesizes the comparative findings as presented in Chapters 4-6. This means that we return to the somewhat isolated explorations of analytical dimensions, and draw out what they have to say together, as inextricably connected parts of TSI. *"How does social innovation interact with other forms of (transformative) change, and how are actors (dis)empowered therein?"* Before presenting the synthesis however, it is important to clarify what we mean by this. The methodological reflections in the previous chapter remind of the following circumstances: First, this synthesis forms part of an overall iterative set-up and is therefore only a transient synthesis – a stepping stone for further TSI theory development that provides footholds for theory development without aspiring to be the theory development itself. Second, the process of harmonization, extraction, and condensation of case analysis is a funnelling process that is by no means straightforward – requiring 'constant comparison' between emergent theory and data. Even if some iteration has been done – more iteration between the comparative analysis team and the different research teams has yet to take place. This document is a starting point for that, in fact, and in that sense an important milestone. Third, this synthesis has to be formulated parsimoniously as different kinds of comparative strategies have been deployed: There has been a modest attempt towards solidification/replication, only some exploration of learning across contexts, and the main strategy was to develop some provisional typologies and propositions about generative mechanisms.

Besides the synthesis of findings the chapter also present some preliminary observations about the role of context in TSI and present a set of propositions as one element for the further TSI theory development.

The synthesis is structured as follows:

- Summary of the findings in chapters 4-6 (8.2)
- Preliminary observations about the role of social context in the shaping of local initiatives (8.3)
- Propositions for future research related to the research questions (8.4)

8.2 Summarising transformative changes and social innovation

8.2.1 Development in networks and local initiatives

8.2.1.1 Timeline of transnational networks and local initiatives

The comparison of the case studies shows diversity among the transnational networks with respect to when they were formalised. Several of the transnational networks have been formalised within the recent 10 years, some 10-20 years ago and one network (Ashoka) 35 years ago.

A typology of temporal development of the transnational networking has been developed:

Development of independent local initiatives before formalisation of network

- Local initiatives predating any network formation
- These initiatives tend to have a higher than average age among the sample of cases
- The networks remain loose after formalisation
- The formalized networks are typically only covering a subset of the existing local initiatives in the movement. Sometimes there are competing transnational networks.

Directly from one local initiative to network organisation

- The first local initiative as outset for transnational inspiration and networking
- Early formation of transnational network
- The dissemination is from the outset guided by the initial local initiative
- The network encompasses, at least initially, all local initiatives and not only a subset of initiatives

Guided expansion

- The transnational network is formed early
- The network encompasses all initiatives
- The network is centralized, and local initiatives have to be evaluated and accepted

Simultaneous development and co-influence

- Local initiatives and membership organisations form more-or-less simultaneously
- Different networks of local initiatives and membership organisations may form
- These may subsequently cooperate, perhaps merging, or may remain as alternatives

8.2.1.2 Networking clusters, typologies, and levels

The case studies represent a typology of three different rationales or purposes behind the networks and initiatives:

- **Save the world – the good example:** Trying to develop a more sustainable society and doing it by developing own activities and structures in this direction.

- **Emancipation movements:** Targeting groups outside the movement and having an ideological purpose related to democratic and sustainable development. Some of the initiatives provide infrastructure for cooperation.

- **Entrepreneur support:** Developing different type of infrastructure for entrepreneurial activity; sometimes for own activities, sometimes for others' activities.

The cases represent a typology of four different approaches to the activities which the transnational network provides in relation to the local initiatives:

Network with service organisations:

- The networks include a transnational service organisation
- Provide various services to their members:

    - Mentoring and teaching
    - Connecting local initiatives
    - Lobbying
    - Providing a platform
    - Organising events
- Some of these organisations were formerly movement leaders or common frameworks
- Strong core/centre of the network

Network owners:

- These network organisations own or control the local initiatives
- They try to enforce conformity in organisation, activities, and/or purpose
- These networks encompass the whole movement and not only a subset

Distributed networks:

- These networks may or may not be legal entities
- They have few or no activities run by the network core
- The network centres are thin – with no or little staff, and relying on virtual structures
- Activities taking place are generally conducted by the members
- An interesting aspect is the symbolic value of being part of an international network Sharing of knowledge and experience is a key feature

Informal networking

- No transnational network organisation that carries out regular activities

8.2.2 Shades of innovation and change in networks and local initiatives

8.2.2.1 Social innovation

Of the 12 cases, only four relate explicitly to the term social innovation. In fact, one of these examples DESIS, has "social innovation" as part of its name (Design for Social Innovation and Sustainability). Two of the other cases are focusing on social entrepreneurship, Ashoka and Impact Hub. In some of the other cases there is scepticism and resistance towards the term "social innovation".

The social innovations that these twelve cases engage in are broad and cover examples of all the dimensions of social innovation mentioned in our definition: new social practices, new ideas, new models, new rules, new social relations and new products. Most of the social innovations are combined innovations, for example DESIS combines a practice and idea (i.e. design thinking) and applies it to other kinds of questions (i.e. societal challenges).

Many cases are offering a physical place in which social innovation can take place, i.e. where new social relations and practices can be experimented with or created. The provision of these physical places and/or mental spaces constitutes itself a social innovation and is referred to as incubation, ecosystem for innovation, or lab.

Within these spaces/places, social innovation by others can take place, such as e.g. in the Impact Hub co-working spaces where start-ups might be working on innovative solutions. Those who actually are engaging in these social innovations can be different actors, such as a network organisation, a local

initiative or individual actors – each of these might focus on different social innovations – the breadth of these initiatives has not been covered in the case reports.

8.2.2.2 System innovation

The systems that are addressed or targeted by the social innovations in the cases cover a broad variety of systems:

- **The economic system** (Ashoka, Credit Unions, FabLabs, GEN, Impact Hub, RIPESS, Time Banks, the Transition Network).This includes the finance and investment practices, production and consumption patterns, values underlying economic exchanges, and labour market.
- **The education, innovation and research system** (Impact Hub, Ashoka, DESIS, FabLabs, Hackerspaces, GEN and Living Knowledge). The general focus of these social innovations implies that their activities could target any social system.
- **The energy (and housing) system** (GEN, INFORSE, Transition Network);
- **The cities and local communities** that the cases are located in and/or embedded in (DESIS, FabLabs, Impact Hub, Transition Network).

An interesting follow up research question is how different innovations within these systems reinforce or compete with one another.

8.2.2.3 Game changers

Game changers refer to macro-developments that are perceived to have changed the conditions for a network and its local initiatives. The cases did not only identify macro-development as game changers but also local and national changes. Game changers that were referred to were historical events and developments in the political, economic, social and cultural, (socio-) ecological or technological realm. The cases show a number of different roles of game changers:

- **Game changers as catalysers:** Game changers are framed to have catalysed the start of the network and/or initiative (e.g. Ashoka, Impact Hub, INFORSE, Transition Town, and RIPESS, Fab Lab).
- **Game changers as enablers:** Game changers are framed as enabling the development of new practices and services (e.g. Credit Union, the ICT revolution for DESIS, INFORSE) or the reflection on or reorientation of activities (e.g. Impact Hub, Transition Network).
- **Game changers as endorsement:** Game changers are also framed as endorsing the cases in their efforts. They are used as reference points to confirm the cause and identity of the case throughout time, thus not only at the start or serve as justification of the goals of the case. Game changers serve to position the case and its practices as alternatives and solutions. For these cases, a negative framing of a macro-development gives them a reasoning and motive against which to pitch their own narrative of change.
- **Game changers as restraints:** Game changers are also framed as restraining the further development of the case or the engagement in specific activities (e.g. INFORSE).

8.2.2.4 Narratives of change

There are two types of narratives of change that were referred to in the case study reports. Firstly, actors in each case have their own narrative of change and either refers to it explicitly or implicitly. These narratives outline how the cases aim to reach their goal, e.g. how they aim at changing the system(s) they target. Secondly, there were references to societal narratives of change, those narratives that are referred in discussions about social change and that cases can relate to.

For the own narratives of change, there are different 'drivers' for societal change:

- **Individuals** as social entrepreneurs are an important driver in some cases. In other cases individuals as citizens isis the main driver.
- **Community** plays also a driving role in societal change in those cases: it is through individuals' concerted action as a community (whether as social entrepreneur community or ecovillage community) that the impacts of their actions are increased. For the Transition Network and GEN, 'community' is both the system to be changed as well as the means through which the change will take place.
- A third driver is **government** that is seen as driver for change and is targeted through lobbying activities.
- Finally, it is the **networking of different actors** which drives change. In Living Knowledge the focus is on the collaboration of actors from different backgrounds ('science' and 'civil society' actors), while in RIPESS it is very much the unification of people working towards the common goal of a 'social and solidarity economy'. In the case of RIPESS, this network can then put pressure on governments.

Societal change can be influenced in different ways according to these narratives. A preliminary clustering of the narratives shows the following:

- Some cases are focusing on **building shadow systems**.
- Rather than 'complete' shadow systems, some cases clearly focus on **providing alternatives to the current systems**, i.e. they engage in social innovation. A specific and clearly institutionalised example is credit unions, which provide an alternative to traditional banks.
- Other narratives of change show a focus on **creating mass or networks.**
- Some cases have a strong focus on **creating enabling environments** for social entrepreneurs, while others do so for social actors.
- Some of the cases are also actively engaged in **influencing societal discourses**, such as 'social entrepreneurship', 'ethical banking', 'community-based activism', 'social solidarity economy' or a '100% renewable Europe'.
- Some cases are also focusing on fostering personal **value change of the individual**.

In terms of societal narratives, it is specifically one narrative of change which plays an overarching role across almost all of the cases, namely one on a **new, social economy**, under which we subsumed references to social entrepreneurship, collaborative/social/sharing/gift/impact/ social solidarity

economy, degrowth, post-capitalism and anti-capitalism as well as commons-based peer production and bartering. Other important narratives are:

- **Enabling environment**, in terms of development of new initiatives and new values and relationships
- **New education and science**; i.e. connecting and opening universities to society; co-production and open innovation, open source

8.2.2.5 Societal transformation

None of the networks can be said to have contributed to societal transformation – while they are all interacting and contributing to a societal transformation in the making. A few cases identified contributions to substantial system innovations. However, a much more thorough analysis is needed to unravel the dynamics of 'societal transformations in the making' than have been done in this report.

Possible research avenues could be analyses of:

- Explicit interrelations over time in terms of impacts (both ways) that some of these cases have with their surroundings.
- Societal transformation 'in the making' and the dynamics of transformative social innovation in terms of recent interactions across the different shades of change.
- How far these (new) combinations of (new) social practices and social relations are becoming mainstreamed or not, taken up by other actors or not and how this in turn impacts the case and adds up (or not) to system change.
- Whether all shades of change and innovation matter, to which network they matter and why.
- The different futures that the networks and local initiatives aim at creating and how dynamics towards such futures could develop. Such research could include more critical questions that have to do with the initiatives' transformative ambitions.

8.2.3 Empowerment and disempowerment in networks and local initiatives

8.2.3.1 Internal governance

All networks in the case studies are built around values and principles. The case studies show different roles of these values and principles in the internal governance of the networks and the local initiatives. In some networks new members have to be assessed and accepted, while in other cases there is no formal approval needed. Despite new members in some cases need to be approved the local initiatives might still practice different values.

Strong internal governance can be built on internal demands, for example expressed in a charter, but can also build on external requirements to a certain type of activity or demand for a certain legal status in order to be able to get funded, e.g. demands for the organisational status as a charity. The

internal work of building a coherent model and ensuring its purity can also be a key to success of a type of social innovation through recognition as a coherent and consistent initiative.
Existence of a transnational network and affiliation to the network might empower a local initiative, although the importance hereof might differ among national contexts.

Within some areas there are more than one transnational network and in some cases only a limited part of local initiatives are member of a transnational network.

The balance between coordination and self-accountability in local initiatives might influence whether individuals in a local initiative feel empowered.

8.2.3.2 External governance

The case studies represent different empowerment strategies with respect to who is empowered and the mechanisms behind empowerment. Social entrepreneurship initiatives focus on empowerment of the individual entrepreneur. Most FabLabs tend also to empower the single FabLab user by providing a physical space for manufacturing activities. Likewise Time Banks focus on empowering the individual users of the time banks.

On the contrary collective empowerment is in focus in other initiatives which provide a physical or organisational space for social innovation: Living Knowledge (science shops), DESIS Labs, local Transition Initiatives. Collective empowerment is also in focus in the social solidarity economy initiatives RIPESS and Credit Unions.

Transnational social innovation networks might be empowered through recognition as hearing or dialogue partner of an international entity, like a UN agency or a part of the EU Commission. Such roles might give influence on for example the shaping of funding opportunities.

Coherence with national and/or regional policies and practices has in some cases empowered local initiatives. Recognition of time banking in the UK and the US is based on coherence with national policies, including tax rules. Coherence might also happen through external actors' enrolment of an initiative into existing policies; examples are FabLabs' enrolment into technology-based innovation and education policy and some sustainable energy organisations' enrolment into renewable energy policy.

Empowerment might also develop through more co-evolutionary processes between social innovation actors and governmental and business actors. An example is the Danish energy movement's role in the development and later mainstreaming of especially wind energy as energy source in Denmark. However mainstreaming through co-evolution has implied introduction of capitalist ownership and market mechanisms, which recently has dis-empowered wind energy as energy source, not least due to local critique of specific wind turbine projects.

8.2.3.3 Social learning

Most of the international networks organise learning and mentoring activities as part of dissemination of concepts to new contexts or as part of empowerment of present members or initiatives. Some local initiatives organise also learning activities. The activities are organised in different ways:

- **Formalised learning activities.** Some international networks have formalised learning activities as part of disseminating concepts and empowering local initiatives. In most cases training is done by local resources offering training in other geographical contexts. Some trasnsnational networks and some local initiatives have formalised their dissemination of concepts and experiences by running courses.
- **Project-based learning activities.** Some training activities are more project-based and rely on external funding. These initiatives may include a combination of training and mentoring of new initiatives.
- **Internal learning activities.** Some internal learning activities is based on formal and some on more informal exchange of experiences, like the Impact Hub's attempt to internal, experiential learning by sharing of failures. The development of physical and virtual spaces is an important element of the mutual learning within and among local Impact Hubs.
- **Learning as part of transfer of concepts to other contexts.** The cases include some examples of social learning in terms of transfer of concepts, experiences etc. from one local initiative to another, including the Transition Network, Living Knowledge (science shops) and FabLabs.
- **Websites, tools and reports as elements in social learning.** An element in several networks' contribution to dissemination and capacity building is development of websites with tools, reports and other types of resources.

8.2.3.4 Resourcing

Access to resources is important for the empowerment of both networks and local initiatives, like shown in the discussion of the importance of social learning for the empowerment of local initiatives. Based on the cases a typology of resourcing strategies for networks and local initiatives has been developed:

- **Networking as resourcing:** local resource persons and their experiences become mutually accessible resources through websites with links and repositories of reports, tools, etc.
- **Applications for external funding:** typically for running specific project activities.
- **Exchange of resources:** 'gift-based' and exchange-based models where resources are exchanged formally or informally, like in Time Banks, ecovillages, FabLabs and Hackerspaces.
- **Volunteers.** Some initiatives have volunteers as an important resource in their activities, like in the Transition Network and the Danish INFORSE member's local activities. Some of the possibilities for employment in local activities might also include 'willingness' to switch between periods of employment and periods of volunteering and being unemployed.
- **Membership fees and in-kind support.** Several local initiatives have membership fees. The Ashoka network and its German initiative seem to be the activities which are attracting the most financial resources.
- **Income from business activity.** Some initiatives generate income by selling products (software from Hacker Spaces) or services (advice from local Impact Hubs and Wallonia INFORSE member's advice to local governments), running courses and hosting different types of events (Impact Hubs, FabLabs, UK Transition Network, and ecovillages).

- **Access to university human resources.** Initiatives which are affiliated at universities like the DESIS Labs and science shops have access to resources through the integration of activities into university courses and curricula, and research.

Some transnational networks and local initiatives spend quite some time applying for external funding in order to be able to run their activities. However, one of the analysed local initiatives avoid applying for external funding due to the time consuming application processes and funders' reporting requirements and prefer avoiding dependence on external funding and the related demands.

8.2.3.5 Monitoring and evaluation

The cases do not show many examples of systematic procedures for monitoring performance, impacts, etc. among networks and local initiatives. The identified practices are to some extent based on external demands from funders or authorities.

Other examples of monitoring and evaluation aim at empowering the networks or initiatives by improvement of activities or enabling cooperation with external partners through documentation of economic or societal value of the activity. Systematic monitoring of the activities and policies within area where an initiative is active might empower an initiative by enabling strategy development and dialogue with external partners.

8.3 The role of social context in transformative social innovation

The section aims at starting the discussion within TRANSIT on the role of social context in the interactions between social innovation and other forms of change, and in the (dis)empowerment of social actors therein. The section provides some first observations on the differences that several cases show in the development of the local initiatives within the same type of social innovation. Such differences are a sign of that the local context play a role in the development of a local initiative. The table show these examples and their background.

Table 8.1: Similarities and differences in the history and interaction with local context among the local initiatives in a case

Transnational Network	Local Case 1	Local Case 2	Comparison of local initiatives and their histories and contexts
The Impact Hub: Global network of social entrepreneurs	São Paulo Brazil	Rotterdam and Amsterdam , The Netherlands	Parallel development time wise in the two countries, but the initiatives seem to attract rather different social groups.
Ashoka: Network for financial support to social entrepreneurs	Ashoka Hungary	Ashoka Germany	Hungary initiative started earlier than the German. German initiative has stronger economy due to a stronger German business interest and has therefore a stronger role in the transnational networking
Time Banks: Networks facilitating reciprocal	Timebanking UK	Health & Family and Ser-Hacer	Division of transnational networks along language-cultural group lines.

service exchange	Fair Shares UK	Spain	More strict internal rules (adherence to principles) and external rules (tax, social benefit, competition) in the UK/US local initiatives - as a co-shaping mechanism – than in the Spanish cases. The Spanish experiences are in some cases differing "significantly from those [mechanisms and values] of the original time banking model"
Credit Unions: Different types of credit cooperatives	Norwich Credit Union - UK	FIARE Spain	The different internal rules in the initiatives seem to reflect different political cultures. Stronger empowerment from Spanish case, maybe due to focus on self-governance.
RIPESS: Network for the promotion of social solidarity economy (SSE)	CRIES Romania	VOSEC Belgium	Belgium initiative early. Romanian very recent. The cases are path-dependent, shaped by the national political-economic history. In Romania the new capitalism is a poor ground to SSE, and SSE initiatives have low credibility because of the earlier communist regime. In Belgium there is a division between the Dutch and the French speaking parts of the SSE movement, combined with a division into different political 'streams'.
FabLabs: Digital fabrication workshops open to local communities	Amersfoort – The Netherlands	Argentina	Time wise parallel development, both inspired by the FabLab concept. The Argentina lab developed closely related to the concept of the dominating international network, while the Dutch lab decided to develop a more low-cost lab.
DESIS-network: Network for design for social innovation and sustainability	POLIMI DESIS Italy	NAS Design Brazil	The Italian local initiative has more focus on development of solutions to socio-ecological problems, while the Brazilian initiative, based in a socially deprived area, has more focus on solutions to basic social problems.
Living Knowledge Network: Network of science shops and other community-based research entities	Science Shop DTU Denmark	InterMEDIU Romania	More tradition for civil society activities in Denmark compared to Romania and earlier and stronger tradition for universities' cooperation with civil society. Better funding opportunities in Denmark, although the focus of universities' external funding recently has changed to more focus on cooperation with businesses
Global Ecovillage Network: Network of ecovillages and other intentional communities	Schloss Tempelhof, Germany	Tamera Portugal	Tamera started in Germany with exploring more intimate and empowered form of community and peaceful interaction. Schloss Tempelhof emerged out of the sharing economy and health care movement in Munich with intentions for intergenerational living.

Transition Network: International movement of place based initiatives focused on local resilience	Transition Totnes UK	Transition Wekerle Hungary	Totnes was the first initiative from which the overall movement has grown. Hungarian initiative is an example of how the Transition idea has travelled and been re-embedded in a new context. The activists involved have also played a role in spreading the Transition model further in Hungary.
INFORSE: International network of sustainable energy NGOs	VE (Vedvarende Energi) Denmark	APERé Belgium	The mainstreaming of renewable energy has taken place earlier in Denmark than in Belgium. Today the Belgium local initiative is more part of local public energy planning than the Danish initiative.

The table points to some aspects of the differences in the shaping of local initiatives within the same case and the background to such differences.. We need to further analyse amongst others the roles of the following aspects in the cases to better understand the shaping of these differences:

- Social and economic development
- National political-economic history
- Mainstreaming strategy, including differences in the national co-evolutionary processes
- Time period where the social innovation initiative developed influence
- Influence from civil society organisations on societal development
- Language

Differences between local initiatives are both seen in cases where local initiatives had developed rather independently in different countries before some formalisation of the transnational cooperation took place (like RIPESS, Living Knowledge and INFORSE) and in cases with a more controlled development of a social innovation (like Impact Hub, Ashoka and FabLabs). The social context is not necessarily only a question about difference in national context. In the Belgium cases also regional differences are important, based in differences in language, administration and dominating religion.

In other cases the differences between local initiatives might not necessarily be based on differences in social context, but seem more based on what looks like individual choices by persons active within a local initiative. This implies that analyses of other local initiatives in the same country could have shown other characteristics, e.g. that the Dutch FabLab analysed in the FabLabs case report is different from several other Dutch FabLabs.

8.4 Propositions about the interactions between social innovation and other forms of change, and empowerment of actors

This section presents a number of propositions about the interactions between social innovation and other forms of change, and how actors are empowered and disempowered through these interactions. These propositions can be seen as the synthesis of our comparative observations, as a condensed output that can be used as guidance for the design of further research into the transformative aspects of social innovation (including in TRANSIT's own further research process). They can be compared with deductive propositions, which likewise are condensations of theoretical explorations of TSI. The section is structured in propositions about the different transformative aspects which have been discussed in chapters 4-6. This allows more easily tracing back the propositions to the underlying comparative observations.

8.4.1 Propositions about development dynamics of social innovation initiatives and networks

- Transnational networks' formalization dates seldom indicate the starting dates of the social innovation initiative.
- Keeping strict control and coherency in a movement or network might come at the cost of growth-rate.
- There are different transnational growth dynamics among social innovation initiatives. Some develop through uncoupled growth of local initiatives that later might develop a transnational network, and some develop fast from one local initiative into formalized networks.
- Social innovation movements, who grew through spread of local initiatives before a transnational network was formed, encompass only a subset of initiatives upon network formalization (i.e. many local initiatives whom the network might be relevant for remain unaffiliated with the network).
- The internet is an important element in the present development of transnational networking within social innovation networks.
- Transnational networking took place years before the internet became commonly used.

8.4.2 Propositions about shades of change and innovation

- The majority of social innovation initiatives do not use the term 'social innovation' explicitly.
- There are social innovations that are mainly social (defending certain values) and social innovations that are mainly innovative (less normatively oriented, more oriented to creating novelty).
- The provision of physical places and/or virtual spaces, or platforms, is an important element for social innovations to take place.

- Macro-developments can be catalysing, enabling, endorsing or restraining social innovation networks and/or initiatives.
- The economic crisis is a game-changer for most social innovation networks and/or initiatives.
- For social innovation networks and/or initiatives, a rather explicit narrative on societal transformation or system innovation is part of their innovation.
- Different actors can be drivers for change as part of social innovation: individuals, communities, governments and/or networks of different actors.
- Social innovation initiatives contribute to societal change in one or more of the following ways: building shadow systems, providing alternatives to the current systems, creating mass or networks, creating enabling environments, influencing societal discourses, or personal value change of the individual.

8.4.3 Propositions about empowerment and disempowerment

Internal governance:

- Formal recognition or allegiance towards social innovation values varies greatly across social innovation networks and initiatives.
- Network structure varies from more formalized to networks where no structure is clearly visible.
- Fast network growth may challenge network identity and prompt network structure renegotiation.
- A key motive behind formalisation of social innovation initiatives and networks is responsiveness to external funders' demand. Such external demands create tensions between formalised structures and a 'grassroots ethos'.
- The emergence of tensions around decision-making triggers the need for changes in the internal coordination in a social innovation initiative and changes in the mixtures of coordination and self-accountability.

External governance:

- Interaction with national and regional policies can both be empowering and disempowering to social innovation initiatives and changes over time. Governmental regulation which responds to critique of incumbent actors is not necessarily empowering social innovation, which are alternatives to the incumbent actors.
- Social innovation initiatives can get empowered through co-shaping of the social innovation and the social systems, which the social innovation is targetting. The co-shaping can entail cooperation with incumbent actors and imply controversies about ownership, transparency, funding, etc.
- A local social innovation initiative's membership of an international network strengthens the local respect for the initiative.
- The creation of transnational networks enables social innovation actors to be recognised as dialogue or hearing partner.

Social learning:

- Learning activities organised by transnational networks support pollination between existing initiatives, dissemination of social innovation initiatives, and empowerment of new local social innovation initiatives.

- Local social innovation experiences and development of experiences into case stories and tools are important elements in social learning from social innovation.

Resourcing:

- Transnational networking among local social innovation initiatives and their experiences are based on a combination of central resources and distributed resources. An important resource in transnational networks are local initiatives and their experiences, which become mutually accessible, international resources through networking.

- Social innovation initiatives and networks acquire resources through a variety of strategies: volunteers, membership fees, exchange of resources, external funding, sale of product and services, access to universities' researchers and students.

- Time consumption related to applications to external funds and demands to accounting and reporting prevent some local initiatives from applying for external funding.

Monitoring:

- Social innovation initiatives monitor activities due to external demands from authorities or funders, or internal wishes for further development of the social innovation activities.

Development of firm, testable and verifiable propositions is difficult and needs to balance between making very overall propositions that do not utilise insights from case studies **and** making so complex propositions that they are not testable in a survey. The proposed propositions above are the first attempt to generalise findings from the first round of empirical research in TRANSIT as a contribution to the development of an empirically grounded middle-range theory about transformative social innovation – a TSI theory. There is further work to do in TRANSIT along this avenue in the coming years through more case studies, a survey, and on-going interaction between deductive and inductive learning processes.

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Annex 1

Description of the first set of 12 transnational networks, websites of the local initiatives and casereport references

	Transnational Networks	Description
1	**The Impact Hub**	The Impact Hub (IH) is a 'locally active and globally connected' network of social entrepreneurs, combining elements from co-working spaces, innovation labs and business incubators. As the name "*Impact* Hub" indicates, there is an explicit aim to have a positive social impact. Today, there are a total of 63 local Impact Hubs across 5 continents and 20 Impact Hubs 'in the making'. Combined, the Impact Hubs have over 11.000 members, mostly social entrepreneurs 'working on ideas for a radically better world'. The Hub has been studied as an exemplifying social network that facilitates social innovation and entrepreneurial activity (Carrera & Granelli 2009, Casson & Della Giusta 2007). The Hub is also used as empirical material in research on how strategic niche management (SNM) can be applied to inform social innovation and social entrepreneurship (Witkamp et al. 2011). This cases studied three local initiatives, two of them in the Netherlands, all affiliated with The Impact Hub, but quite different in how they are shaped and running despite their common goal.
		The Hub http://www.impacthub.net/ Local initiative 1: São Paulo – Brazil http://saopaulo.impacthub.com.br/ Local initiative 2: Rotterdam –the Netherlands http://impacthub010.nl/ Local initiative 3: Amsterdam – the Netherlands http://amsterdam.impacthub.net/ REPORT: Julia M. Wittmayer, Flor Avelino, , Rita Afonso (eds.) (2015) WP4 CASE STUDY Report: Impact Hub.
2	**Ashoka**	Ashoka is a global network for supporting social entrepreneurs (SE), incl. association of 3,000 SE 'fellows' in > 70 countries around the world. Ashoka invests in social entrepreneurs by providing personal financial support for 1 to 3 years to 'leading changemakers' across the world. Ashoka is thriving for maximum social impact, therefore group entrepreneurship is promoted and relevant infrastructure (access to financial resources, business and academic partnerships) is built. Popular case studies of Ashoka fellows from all around the world are developed by Bornstein (2004) through qualitative interviewing. Sen (2007) focuses upon Ashoka fellows as drivers of social change, while Meyskens et al. (2010) analyses the social value creation characteristics of Ashoka fellows through a resource-based view of entrepreneurship. The case studied two local European initiatives, directly or indirectly owned by

		Ashoka based in the US. As such the cases are examples of some of the newer offices compared to the relatively long life of the Ashoka network. The initiative has several similarities with The Hub in their aim to empower social entrepreneurs, but a markedly different approach with their focus on Ashoka fellows.
		Ashoka https://www.ashoka.org/ Local initiative 1: Ashoka Germany http://germany.ashoka.org/ Local initiative 2: Ashoka Hungary http://hungary.ashoka.org/ REPORT: Matolay Réka, Paul M. Weaver (2015) WP4 | CASE STUDY Report: [Ashoka]
3	**Time Banks**	Time Banks are regionally networked entities that facilitate reciprocal service exchange using time as currency all over the world. There are networks of time banks in many countries around the world in Europe, the Americas, and beyond. The *Network of Spanish Time Banks* alone already groups together over 300 time banks. Time banks have been studied as examples of community-led complementary currencies, conceptualised as "a grassroots tool to promote social inclusion through community self-help and active citizenship" (Seyfang 2003, 2004). The case encompasses national networks from the US (H0orworld), UK, and Spain, as well as local initiatives both in the UK and Spain. Ser-Hacer is not affiliated with the other time banks in the case study, but is an interesting example of how these initiatives grow in parallel.
		H0urworld https://www.hourworld.org/ Local initiative 1: Fair Shares http://www.fairshares.org.uk/ Local initiative 2: Ser-Hacer http://www.serhacer.org/ REPORT: Paul M. Weaver, Adina Dumitru, Ricardo García-Mira, Isabel Lema, Loes Muijsers and Veronique Vasseur (2014) WP4 | CASE STUDY Report: Time banking.
4	**Credit Unions**	Credit unions are financial organizations that aim to provide financial intermediation services to a range of stakeholders, guided by a set of ethical principles that place social and environmental goals at the centre of their activities. They have been defined as democratic financial institutions that have "ethical and sustainable development at the core of their mission, ambitions and practices" (De Clerk, 2009). TRANSIT has studied The European Federation of Ethical and Alternative Banks

		(FEBEA), a non-profit international association formed by 26 European partners based across 14 European States. FEBEA was born with the aim of defending the existence of credit unions, protecting ethical banking and becoming a platform of political action that aimed at introducing changes in European banking regulations. FIARE, the Spanish case-study has been partner member of FEBEA since 2005 as well member of the International "Global Alliance for Banking on Values (GABV)". The UK Case Study approaches three similar Norwich credit unions: the Norwich Credit Union (NCU), the West Norwich Credit Union (WNCU) and Wherry Dragon Credit Union (WDCU). All of them are members of ABCUL (Association of British Credit Unions Limited), the national association that represents credit unions in the UK, which is, in turn, a member of WOCCU (World Council of Credit Unions), which represents the credit union movement worldwide.
		Credit Unions International Network: FEBEA http://www.febea.org/ Local initiative 1: FIARE - Spain http://www.fiarebancaetica.coop/ Local initiative 2: Norwich Credit Union (NCU)- UK http://www.norwichcreditunion.org.uk West Norwich Credit Union (WNCU) http://www.wncu.net Wherry Dragon Credit Union (WDCU) http://www.wherrydragon.org.uk Local initiative 2: FIARE - Spain http://www.fiarebancaetica.coop/ REPORT: Adina Dumitru, Isabel Lema Blanco, Ricardo García Mira, Alex Haxeltine, Anne Frances (2015) WP4 | CASE STUDY Report: [Credit Unions]
5	**RIPESS**	RIPESS is the *Intercontinental Network for the Promotion of the Social Solidarity Economy*, which connects social and solidarity economy networks throughout the world. As a network of networks, it brings together continental networks, that in turn bring together national and sector networks. RIPESS organizes global forums every four years. .. The RIPESS cases look into two networks/organisations that a members of RIPESS. However, it is a complicated case as RIPESS is a network of networks, with many different levels and members with multiple affiliations.

		RIPESS http://www.cries.ro/ Local initiative 1: CRIES - Romania http://www.cries.ro/ Local initiative 2: VOSEC - Belgium http://www.vosec.be/ REPORT: Bonno Pel, Adina Dumitru (2015) WP4 | CASE STUDY Report: RIPESS.
6	**FABLABS**	There are 440 FabLabs globally networked: from Colombia to Canada, Namibia to the Netherlands. Deriving from a model pioneered by the Centre for Bits and Atoms at MIT, FabLabs are digital fabrication workshops open to local communities, and with access to open source design and manufacturing resources. They enable people to make whatever they want, turning consumers into producers, and advocates see them as democratizing production and consumption (Gershenfeld 2005, Troxler 2010). The case study on FabLabs look at two local initiatives at two extremes of the spectrum, a grassroots type FabLab without external funding and very ideologically motivated, and a more traditional start-up in Argentina based on the MIT model and supported partially by an educational institution.
		FabLabs Local initiative 1: FabLab Amersfoort – The Netherlands http://www.fablabamersfoort.nl/en Local initiative 2: FabLab Argentina http://www.fablabargentina.com.ar/ REPORT: Sabine Hielscher, Adrian Smith, Mariano Fressoli (2015) WP4 Case Study Report: FabLabs, Report for the TRANSIT FP7 Project, SPRU, University of Sussex, Brighton.
7	**Hackerspace**	Hackerspaces are similar to FabLabs, but are self-organised by users, and more strongly committed to principles of open source, commons-based, peer-production. There are over 1330 Hackerspaces networked globally, and through events like Makers Faires. There are hundreds in Europe and dozens in Latin America. Hackerspaces are physical sites where experiments are made in the relocating, reconfiguring and recalibrating of innovative capabilities in society. (Stangler and Maxwell, 2012, Dougherty, 2012, Mota, 2011). The case study on Hackerspaces, like FabLabs, look at two local initiatives at two extremes of the spectrum, a very ideologically motivated initiative in Argentina and a more pragmatic one in the UK. The case study is also an example of a very loose network with no formalized organisations.

		Hackerspaces http://hackerspaces.org/ Local initiative 1: Build Brighton – UK http://www.buildbrighton.com/ Local initiative 2: Hacklab Barracas - Argentina http://wiki.hackcoop.com.ar/P%C3%A1gina_principal REPORT: Sabine Hielscher, Adrian Smith, Mariano Fressoli (2015) WP4 Case Study Report: Hackerspaces, Report for the TRANSIT FP7 Project, SPRU, University of Sussex, Brighton.
8	**Living Knowledge network**	The Living Knowledge Network is the formal international network of 'Science Shops' - small entities that carry out scientific research on behalf of citizens and local civil society. The concept of Science Shops was developed in the 1970s to strengthen the influence of civil society organisations on societal issues through access to scientific knowledge. Since then Science Shops have been developed in several European and non-European countries, mostly as university-based Science Shops, but also some as community-based Science Shops. The international network, Living Knowledge, was launched in 2001. EU financed projects about impact of Science Shops have been conducted the recent 10 years (Mulder et al, 2006; Brodersen, 2010). Countries with the oldest Science Shops, like the Netherlands and Denmark, have recently experienced reduced university support to Science Shops and integration with match-making facilities between university and society. On the other hand, during the same period the first Science Shops have been set up in countries without strong civil society organisations (e.g. Belgium, Portugal, France, Greece). The case study is on the Living Knowledge network that is a formalization from 2001 of the science shop movement that started in the 1970'ties, and is mainly focused on examples of a university based social innovation initiative. It is rather ideologically motivated and focused on empowering civil society by providing disadvantaged groups, among others, access to free research.
		Living Knowledge http://www.livingknowledge.org/ Local initiative 1: Science Shop DTU http://www.vb.dtu.dk/ Local initiative 2: InterMEDIU Romania http://old.intermediu.eu/despre-noi/index.html REPORT: Jens Dorland, Michael Søgaard Jørgensen (2015) WP4 | CASE STUDY Report: Living Knowledge Network

9	**DESIS-network**	DESIS - *Design for Social Innovation towards Sustainability* – is a global network of design labs supporting 'social innovation towards sustainability', based in design schools and design-oriented universities, actively involved in promoting and supporting sustainable change. Now, It gathers more than 30 labs all over the world. (Manzini et al. 2010). The case on the DESIS network is also a university based network, with labs focusing on projects in sustainable design among others. It is in some ways similar to Living Knowledge, but is a much newer initiative with a very different development path that was very dependent on the founder.
		DESIS Labs http://www.desis-network.org/ Local initiative 1: POLIMI DESIS – Italy http://www.dipartimentodesign.polimi.it/ Local initiative 2: NAS Design - Brazil http://www.nasdesign.ufsc.br/ REPORT: Carla Cipolla, .Maíra Prestes Joly, M.P., Rita Afonso (2015). DESIS Network Report
10	**Global Ecovillage Network**	The Global Ecovillage Network (GEN) is a network of > 500 ecovillages and other intentional communities across the globe. It also has 5 regional network subdivisions for the continents, Europe, Africa, Oceania & Asia, North America, and Latin America. Studies on GEN and/or local ecovillages often focus on social movement theory and/or intentional communities (Lockyer 2010, Kunze 2009, Meijering 2006). Kunze (2012) analysed ecovillages as laboratories for sustainable living and social innovation. Avelino & Kunze (2009) analysed the up-scaling and mainstreaming of ecovillages and their contribution to sustainability transitions. The case study on GEN is an example of a rather loose international network encompassing very different types of initiatives, from traditional villages to social experiments. The Portuguese initiative is such a social experiment focusing on social relations and love, while the German initiative is a more traditional collaborative community.
		Global Ecovillage Network http://gen.ecovillage.org/ Local initiative 1: Tamera - Portugal http://www.tamera.org/ Local initiative 2: Schloss Tempelhof - Germany http://www.schloss-tempelhof.de/ REPORT: Iris Kunze and Flor Avelino (2015): Case study report of the Global Ecovillage Network.

11	**Transition Network**	Network of more than 1,100 grassroots communities working on 'local resilience' in response to peak oil, climate change and financial crisis. The concept of the Transition Network originates in the UK – where it is also still most strongly represented, but in the past years has spread to many other countries. Empirical studies about the Transition Network initiatives have been mostly conducted in the context of urban studies and the 'relocalisation' movement (e.g. Mason, K. and Whitehead, M. 2012, Bailey et al. 2010, Hopkins 2012). Seyfang & Haxeltine (2012) have studied the Transition Network initiatives in the UK as grassroots innovations from the perspective of the transitions Multi-level Perspective. TRANSIT will contribute to the state of the art through a systematic comparison of the Transition Network initiatives in the UK and Hungary. The case study on the Transition Network may resemble GEN a little, with some overlap in interests and activities. However, Transition Towns involves the transformation of existing settlements, rather than the creation of new ones. The local case in the UK is the founder of the network, and the Hungarian is the first initiative in that country.
		The Transition Network https://www.transitionnetwork.org/ Local initiative 1: Transition Totnes - UK http://www.transitiontowntotnes.org/ Local initiative 2: Transition Wekerle - Hungary http://www.atalakulowekerle.blogspot.hu/ REPORT: Noel Longhurst, György Pataki (2015) WP4 | CASE STUDY Report: [The Transition Movement]
12	**INFORSE**	INFORSE – *International Network for Sustainable Energy* – is a worldwide network consisting of 140 independent NGOs working in about 60 countries to promote sustainable energy and social development. The international network was established in 1992 to secure follow-up to the decisions at the Rio summit in 1992. The INFORSE network revolves around the members supported by National Focal Points in some countries and Regional Coordinators working in their respective regions. Renewable energy and increased energy efficiency are focus in all countries. In developing and in newly industrialised countries and in poorer communities, access to affordable energy is also in focus. In Eastern European countries there are only few experiences with local citizen engagement, while in Western Europe both local activities and development of low carbon scenarios and influence on national politics are in focus. Western countries are in some cases financing projects in other countries. There is need for scientific analyses of the role of international networking on the transfer and adaptation of experiences among countries. The INFORSE case shows a loose network with few activities where the common denominator is the interest in renewable energy. This leaves the definition quite open, and the members' organisations are very different. The

		Danish local initiative, which is at the same time running the European network, is an NGO with little funding that the last many years have worked a lot with Wind energy. The Belgium local initiative, while also an NGO, lives mostly of consultancy type working for the public authorities.
		INFORSE http://www.inforse.org/ Local initiative 1: Vedvarende Energi - Denmark http://www.ve.dk/ Local initiative 2: APERé - Belgium http://www.apere.org/ REPORT: Morten Elle, Bonno Pel, Valentine van Gameren, Henriette Kjær Aagaard, Michael Søgaard Jørgensen (2015) WP4 | CASE STUDY Report: INFORSE

Annex 2

Table: Future research themes developed as part of Research Question 4 in some of the case studies

Transnational Networks	Future research themes inspired by the case research
The Impact Hub: Global network of social entrepreneurs	- Discourses and movements around a 'new economy', ranging from notions such as the 'social impact economy' and 'sharing economy' to the phenomena of social entrepreneurship and the 'social economy' more generally. - How far trends around a' new economy' are contributing to societal transformation, and to what extent they are reinforcing the on-going neoliberal trend of marketization, privatisation and increasing levels of socio-economic inequality? - Urban dynamics between spaces such as the Impact Hub and other urban initiatives. - The relation between social innovation initiatives and different levels of government. - Compare the studied networks in terms of their strategies for balancing local and transnational networking activities, and how they aim for 'impact'. Consider what different fields of research (e.g. transition studies, social movement theories, governance research) have to offer in terms of theoretical insights to answer these questions
Time Banks: Networks facilitating reciprocal service exchange	The state-initiated time banks in Galicia are examples of failed cases which could become an important pool of empirical material. The Galician experience drives a Spanish recent initiative to avoid governmental funding as much as possible. There is need for precision in the definition of different types of similar social innovations in order to be able to assess the transformative change potential of social innovation. This includes the need for differentiation of different ways of co-production of benefits.
Credit Unions: Different types of credit cooperatives	The internal work of building a coherent model and ensuring its purity seems to be a key to the success of these initiatives through recognition as a coherent and consistent minority
RIPESS: Network for the promotion of social solidarity economy	The Belgium initiative VOSEC and its ceasing could be considered as an example of a failed case, which in general should be addressed more as empirical material
Fab Labs: Digital fabrication workshops open to local communities	- Explore the material culture of the Fab Labs in more depth. - Analyse how the 'making' relate to change and innovation.
Hackerspaces: User driven digital fabrication workshops	- Issues of identity and identification with Hackerspaces and hacking and how this is changing and developing. - The material culture developing in Hackerspaces and spilling out of them. - The fascination in humanised tools and technology as a device for social change.

	- The complex relations between autonomy and social development
Global Ecovillage Network: Network of ecovillages and other intentional communities	- Understanding the interaction between ecovillages, (local) governments and surrounding communities. - Whether and how ecovillages build alternative economies within their communities. - Compare ecovillages to other cases, and see what they can learn from each other in terms of new economy concepts. - Hypothesize that the ecovillage movement is more radical, and more explicitly aims for social transformation, than most/many of the other cases, due to its holistic approach that includes daily life, community and personal transformation, as well as its underlying post-capitalist and post-material ideas. - How and to what extent the ecovillage movement 'actually' contributes to societal transformation, and how and to what extent it inspires and/or interacts with those other networks. - Trace historically how ideas and practices that are developed in ecovillages as 'radical niches' end up in mainstream society, and how they get 'translated' to regime practices (Smiths 2006. 2007). - Engage with the issue of 'Utopianism', ideology, and images of the future and discuss ecovillages in terms of "transformative utopianism" (Lockyer 2009). - Understand ecovillages not so much as utopias, but rather 'heterotopias', i.e. places of 'otherness' and 'heterogeneity' (Foucault1984), which deviate from mainstream society where humans can "break with their traditional time" by engaging with old and 'lost' traditions (e.g. community life, handcrafts, etc.), but also, experiments with futuristic images (e.g. low-tech experiments with e.g. solar energy). - Ecovillages can also be seen as 'geo-political terrains of resistance' (Routledge 1996), where global geo-political struggles are 'fought' at a micro-level, of which several ecovillages are typical examples.